

Law Enforcement News

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Thinking locally, acting globally

NYPD, others expand their reach in fighting terrorism

In the post-9/11 world, it appears, it is no longer enough for the New York Police Department to confine its patrolling and other police work to the city's five boroughs. In recent months, the agency has undertaken its own set of counter-terrorism strategies which include sending investigators overseas on intelligence-gathering assignments, surveying the language skills of personnel who might speak Arabic, Fujianese and other tongues, and a training program for patrol officers in the event of an attack.

Said Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly: "The federal government has a national focus. We have a much more parochial focus. We feel we have to protect ourselves."

In August, the NYPD issued a bulletin asking for volunteers interested in going abroad to perform information-gathering activities for the department's Intelligence Division. The assignments would last up to six months, and would involve traveling to countries in the Middle East and Europe. It also intends to send investigators to Canada and Israel, with assignments in Southeast Asia also under discussion. One detective will be used as a liaison to Interpol at its headquarters in Lyons, France.

Two detectives have already been sent to FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. to handle the tricky but necessary job of expediting the flow of information, and the NYPD also intends to assign

an official to the city's lobbying office in Washington to help it in its dealings with other federal agencies.

"We want to emphasize, we're not looking to supplant anything that's going on in the federal government — this is to augment," Kelly told The New York Times. "Why are we different? Well, we've been targeted. We're sitting 10 blocks away from why we're different."

The measures are part of an overall initiative to help prevent another terrorist attack and prepare for the possibility of another. In the past decade, New York has been the target of four terrorist attacks, two of those successful, noted Kelly.

This year, Frank Libutti, a retired Marine lieutenant general, was appointed by Kelly to head the department's counterterrorism initiatives. Libutti oversees 100 detectives who work such cases with the FBI as part of the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Roughly the same number work cases with the department's Intelligence Division, headed by former CIA director of operations David Cohen. Some 35 percent to 40 percent of the time spent by the unit's 700 investigators is devoted to counterterrorism — up from 2 percent before January.

Libutti is also supervising a comprehensive training program that would teach first responders, generally patrol officers, what to watch out for during an attack, be it nuclear, chemical or biological.

In addition to sending personnel overseas and to the capital, top-ranking officers have also visited the Naval War College in Rhode Island. War-college trainers will soon visit the city to work with senior commanders. And several back up command teams have been created so that if officials at the highest level of the department are killed in an attack, others will be ready to step into their jobs, according to The Times.

The NYPD has also begun assessing the language skills of personnel, seeking officers who can speak Pashtun, Arabic, Fujianese, Urdu and other dialects, and training others. Investigators from the Intelligence Division are already reading foreign newspapers and monitoring Internet sites.

Dr. Kevin Cahill, the head of the Tropical Disease Center at Lenox Hill Hospital, was named in July as the department's chief medical adviser, a new position. Cahill diagnosed two cases of anthrax in the city last fall and formed a board to advise the NYPD on how to protect officers in the event of a catastrophic incident.

Weighing the pluses & minuses

More changes are likely to be in the wind for the NYPD, following the delivery of an independent consultant's report that analyzed the police department's response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The report by McKinsey & Company concluded that while the response was effective in

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Licenses to kill?

New moves to link visas, driving permits

Agreeing with the argument that thousands of immigrants with expired visas may be in Minnesota — some of whom could be involved in terrorist activities — the state's chief administrative law judge has given the Department of Public Safety the green light to note visa expiration dates on driver's licenses, which are often used as proof of identity.

The proposal was made by Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver, who hailed the ruling as significant move against terrorism. Implementa-

tion of the plan began on July 8. "From a public safety standpoint, that is most important — that cops can see when a visa expires," he told The Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Weaver's proposal to enact tighter requirements on the issuance of a driver's license failed during the 2002 legislative session. When his argument was rejected in June by Administrative Law Judge George Beck, the department appealed the ruling before Chief Judge Kenneth Nickolai.

Noting that the DPS already has the

power to cancel licenses of visa holders once the visa expires, and to note such expiration dates on licenses, Nickolai said that additional information provided by Weaver showed hundreds of applicants whose visas were due to expire within days yet held a driver's license good for up to four years.

"While the department presented no evidence that any of those applicants are linked to a 'serious and immediate threat,' it did present facts showing that, on a nationwide basis, non-U.S. citizens are seeking to obtain forms of legitimate identification documents as a part of their plan to conduct terrorist operations within the country," Nickolai said in a six-page ruling handed down on June 21. "Further, the department presented evidence that it has reason to believe such individuals of ill intent have been operating with the state of Minnesota."

Under the new rules, first-time applicants for driver's licenses would have to show two forms of identification, including a valid passport or a U.S. birth certificate. Other state's licenses would not be accepted as sole proof of identity, although they could be used as a secondary source. The decision also authorizes the department to require photographs on licenses.

Minnesota is one of just a handful of states that have followed through on what was considered in the aftermath of Sept. 11 to be a fundamental change

in how immigration status would be tracked — namely, making it more difficult for terrorists to obtain driver's licenses.

"The further we get from Sept. 11, the more complacent we tend to get," Weaver told The Associated Press.

One year after the attacks, efforts to link immigration status to what amounts to the nation's national ID have been piecemeal, according to Jason King, executive director of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

"There is still some legislation that has been introduced at the federal level by Congressman [Jeff] Flake of Arizona that would tie the expiration of a driver's license to the expiration of someone's visa document," King told Law Enforcement News. "At the state level, it's still a very mixed bag."

According to Matthew Specht, a spokesman for Flake, a Republican who is a member of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, proponents of the bill were unable to get it incorporated into the House version of the legislation to create a new Department of Homeland Security. Flake is still trying to have it included in the Senate version, he told LEN.

"Gov. [Tom] Ridge has already voiced support not for our specific bill, but for the concept of tying visas and driver's licenses together," said Specht. "Our hope is that once this new depart-

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Spotting gambling cheats is more than just luck of the draw

The Missouri Gaming Commission is trying to even the odds with those who would try to cheat while working or playing at the state's riverboat casinos by teaching law enforcement the tricks of the gambling trade.

"The need for this is critical because this is a very complicated industry," Kevin Mullally, the commission's executive director, told The Associated Press. "You're dealing with a lot of cash money, so the risks are very high."

The program, working with a budget of approximately \$100,000, puts state troopers through a one-week course where they learn how to spot illegal activity in a replica casino com-

plete with a craps table, slot machines and chips, cards and dice. There are surveillance cameras along the ceiling, and a cash box containing \$50,000 in tokens sits by the door. The program was implemented last year.

Riverboat gambling along the Mississippi and Missouri rivers was approved by voters in 1992. The state taxes levied on the casinos raise some \$200 million annually, which residents were promised would be used to boost education spending in the state. Approximately 100 highway patrol officers are assigned to the casinos as agents under an eight-year-old agreement between the state's Gaming Commission

and the Highway Patrol.

The gaming lab is run by Chris Baker, a 28-year veteran of the Highway Patrol who served as its training director. Nearing retirement, Baker was asked two years ago to join the Gaming Commission and develop the basic course.

"What happens is, you have a highway patrolman who knows everything about criminal law, highway law, but nothing about gaming law," he told Law Enforcement News. "So when they came to the division, it was recognized that they needed some basic training."

Prior to the establishment of the lab,

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Around the Nation

Northeast



MAINE — Lynn Duby, the commissioner of the state Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services, is exploring the possible expansion of a six-city initiative that pairs mental health workers with patrol officers to help police in their dealings with the mentally ill. The \$400,000 state program currently operates in Bangor, Portland, Lewiston, Augusta, Waterville and Biddeford. A recent attempt to expand the program to eight counties fell short in the Legislature because of budget considerations.

MARYLAND — Web site operator Jon Messner claims that he gained control of the al-Qaeda terrorist group's prime Internet site and offered it to the FBI for disinformation purposes, only to be frustrated when the bureau took too long to act. Messner snapped up the address from a pool of sites available for sale, and filled it with old pages from the original Web site. The decoy site fooled users temporarily but he needed the FBI to write new articles in Arabic to keep the site alive. The FBI took too long and other Arabic Web sites soon caught on that Messner's site was a phony and began warning visitors away. The FBI would not confirm or deny Messner's story.

MASSACHUSETTS — A federal judge ruled Aug. 1 that the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority did not have to post controversial ads from a group advocating the legalization of marijuana. The ads feature slogans like "Police are too important, too valuable, too good to waste on arresting people for marijuana when real criminals are on the loose." Judge Robert E. Keeton also found that the MBTA's advertising guidelines were "constitutionally flawed" and ordered it to "create consistent, fair, and comprehensible guidelines to avoid legal quagmires over political or potentially offensive ads."

NEW JERSEY — The state has agreed to pay \$5 million to settle a lawsuit 13 black state troopers who claimed they had been harassed and denied promotions. The lawsuit maintained that the troopers' careers were further stalled when they made the complaints.

NEW YORK — Broome County sheriff's deputy Kevin Tarsia, 36, was shot 15 times and killed on July 4 after interrupting three men who were transferring stolen weapons from one vehicle to another.

On the day that New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly announced the beginning of a pilot program to outfit prisoners with plastic identification wristbands, the 17th escapee this year broke free from officers in the Eastchester section of the Bronx. The ID bands will include a picture of the suspect, date of birth, arrest precinct, and other information that will be contained in a bar code. Kelly had previously ordered that additional metal bars to which prisoners could be handcuffed be installed in interrogation rooms, and called for improved training in prisoner transportation.

The Niagara Police Department re-

started its midnight patrol shift on Aug. 1 after a five-month suspension. The midnight shift had been suspended due to a combination of fiscal reasons, including the need to keep an injured officer on full pay. The injured officer has since been accepted into the state retirement system. The Niagara County Sheriff's Department and State Police had been patrolling the town overnight.

The number of registered sex offenders in the state has increased by more than 50 percent to 14,444, up from 9,336 in 1999. Although law enforcement and community officials say that the registry is strong when it comes to getting convicted offenders to register, its weakness is in public notification, which varies considerably from county to county. In addition, a federal court injunction has barred the state from releasing information about thousands of sex offenders until they get new hearings to will determine whether they are high, moderate or low risk offenders.

PENNSYLVANIA — A task force looking at ways to increase professionalism in the Erie police force has recommended that there be a written policy about officers with tattoos. The policy on tattoos, which has not yet been approved by the bureau's union, states: "Tattoos visible to others while on duty shall not be sexually offensive, ethnically offensive or religiously offensive to a reasonable person. Tattoos shall not be permitted above the neck." The task force's 104 recommendations also include adding 20 more officers and creating a merit system for promotion.

A study by an independent research firm has concluded that Allegheny County's three suburban booking centers are not cost effective and should be closed. The centers were opened in response to complaints from smaller communities who felt they were getting less police coverage because of the travel time for officers to go to and from the booking center in downtown Pittsburgh. The study found, however, that 85 percent of all suburban suspects were still being processed downtown and that the average cost of a booking at one of the three regional centers was 8 times higher than in Pittsburgh.

Lawsuits filed by five women assert that former state police trooper Michael Evans, who is serving a 5- to 10-year sentence for sexual misconduct against several women and teen-age girls, should never have been hired in the first place. The lawsuits maintain that when Evans applied for the state police job in 1995, information about disciplinary problems while he worked with other agencies came to light, but concerns about his suitability as a trooper were never included in the pre-employment background report.

Pittsburgh police say the shooting death of an 8-year-old girl last winter has prompted more witnesses to come forward in other homicides. Police this year have solved 19 out of 25 homicides, or about 76 percent. In 2001, the success rate was 62 percent.

VERMONT — After ending the last budget year with a \$1.3 million deficit that included \$725,000 in unpaid bills, the State Public Safety Department has been put on a monthly allowance. The public safety commissioner said that his budget was too tight.

Southeast



FLORIDA — Citing a policy issued in 1989, St. Petersburg Police Chief Chuck Harmon abruptly banned all members of his department from speaking with the press and directed that all requests for information be referred to the SPPD's public information officers. Although the department denied any connection, the announcement came one day after Harmon called an editor for The St. Petersburg Times to protest the paper's pursuit of a news story that details the uncertain results of a joint city-county drug enforcement effort.

Six young men looking for "magic mushrooms" in a manure-dotted cow pasture in Pasco County were arrested on trespassing charges. They were not charged with drug possession because the state does not consider possession of the mushrooms illegal. The mushrooms, which contain the hallucinogen psilocybin, often grow on cow patties.

The Palm Beach County Law Enforcement Planning Council will begin to record and track the identities of parents' live-in companions whenever a child abuse or neglect complaint is filed, regardless of whether the companion is a suspect in the complaint. In 2000, of the 30 children who died in Florida from abuse, eight died at the hands of or while being watched by their mother's boyfriends.

GEORGIA — Hall County sheriff's deputies are arming themselves with another weapon to stop gang violence — spray paint. The county has had four gang-related killings so far this year, as rival gangs graffiti buildings in their battles over turf. The department thinks that spraying over graffiti curbs the violence and has cut new graffiti by up to 30 percent.

Following a 22-mile police chase that ended in a fatal collision, Peachtree City Police Chief Jim Murray has asked Gov. Roy Barnes to develop legislation governing pursuits to prevent innocent deaths. The chase began when Loraine McCrary, 37, left the scene of an accident. Her three children were in the car with her as she led police on a chase that reached 100 mph. Her car eventually smashed into a minivan in a shopping center parking lot, killing Chuck Vicha, 41, who had gone out to get a cold soda. McCrary, who was in critical condition, had not yet been charged. One child was in serious condition and two others were treated and released.

LOUISIANA — A new program in Jefferson Parish will provide free cell phones to senior citizens for use in emergency situations. So far, the program had collected 300 inactive cell phone donations from friends and relatives. Seniors will not be able to use the phones for all calls, but will be able to dial 911.

MISSISSIPPI — After several citizens expressed concern over the potential for police dogs to do harm, the Laurel Police Department changed some of the K-9 unit's policies. Dogs and their handlers will no longer be used in aggres-

sive situations and dogs will not be allowed to bite under any circumstance. Dogs will also not be sent into buildings to assist in arresting suspects.

NORTH CAROLINA — Chowan County sheriff's deputy Richard Edward Ashley, Jr., Charlotte-Mecklenburg police Sgt. Anthony Scott Futrell and Boone police Maj. Robert C. Kennedy were killed on July 17 when the plane they were using to search for marijuana plants crashed. The flight was part of a statewide program that used small aircraft from the National Guard for drug surveillance.

The Greensboro police are making it harder for thieves to steal license plates, by giving car owners tamper-resistant bolts. The bolts, which Officer C. T. "Bud" Blaylock found at a distributor for 28 cents each, have a rounded head so that pliers can't twist them off. The city bought the first batch of bolts for \$400, and donations have allowed Blaylock to order 1000 more. In the past 18 months, more than 800 people in the city reported the theft of their tags.

SOUTH CAROLINA — More than 800 fellow officers attended funeral services for Highway Patrol Cpl. Kenneth "Jeff" Johnson, 38, who was shot and killed July 7 at a traffic checkpoint.

TENNESSEE — After a fisherman rescued a local couple, Steven Womac, 37, and his wife Tammy, 32, from their sinking boat on July 23, Meigs County police discovered that the vessel was a floating methamphetamine lab. Although this was the first waterborne meth lab found by the sheriff's department, deputies were warned about the possibility of boats being used for that purpose at a training session earlier this year.

VIRGINIA — In June, Roanoke police K-9 officers John Hoover and R.A. Bower, along with their four-legged partners Axl and Blitz, were joined by television crews from Animal Planet, who were filming a one-hour documentary called "A Nose for Crime." The program, which will feature exceptional police dogs from Reno, Los Angeles, Tampa, and Great Britain, is scheduled to air on Oct. 22. Hoover, a master trainer, served as a technical adviser for the production company.



Midwest

ILLINOIS — Members of the Springfield Police Department, the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office, the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois will travel to Memphis to study that city's nationally acclaimed model of police crisis intervention teams for dealing with the mentally ill. The idea for better training came after the death of Andrew Sallenger, whose family claimed that he was hogtied and beaten by three Springfield police officers, causing his death. The incident is being investigated by state police and the FBI, as well as the Springfield department, though it maintains that the officers did nothing wrong. [See LEN, Dec. 15/31, 2000.]

INDIANA — Beginning in January,

changes in the state's sex offender registry will require all sheriff's departments to post sex offenders' names, addresses and photographs on a publicly accessible Web site. Previously, city and town police were responsible for keeping records and the information was not posted on a central site.

KENTUCKY — Accustomed to losing officers to other agencies, the Kentucky State Police is now recruiting officers from other police departments throughout the state to fill its depleting ranks as more baby boomers retire. The president of the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, Versailles Police Chief Allen Love, said that the move is an acknowledgment of the improved training and quality of officers from smaller local agencies. The KSP training program for experienced officers will be cut in half to 11 weeks and will include more specialized training in state practices and procedures.

After a car carrying a container of anhydrous ammonia fertilizer, a key ingredient in the manufacture of methamphetamine, exploded in southwest Kentucky last fall, investigators discovered that it was a rolling meth lab, underscoring a growing problem. The head of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Asa Hutchinson, said during a recent visit to Lexington that as police become more aggressive in making arrests, meth producers are coming up with innovative ways to hide their labs, including making the labs mobile and sometimes keeping them in the trunks of cars. According to one estimate, up to 20 percent of the meth labs in western Kentucky are mobile.

MICHIGAN — Back in 1987, the Detroit police set up a special phone line to make it easier for victims to report stolen vehicles. Apparently, however, the system has also made it too easy for people to file false reports. Of the nearly 54,000 vehicles reported stolen statewide in 2000, half were reported in Detroit, and half of those reports are bogus, according to police, prosecutors and insurance companies. Lt. Samuel Carter, head of the police department's commercial auto theft unit, said that the current call-in system should be changed to require that people who report auto theft file an additional report in person within 10 days. Currently, Detroiters pay 50 percent more per year for auto insurance than other drivers in the state.

OHIO — A new dispatch system in Miami County is moving ahead slowly and could take more than 18 months to become operational. The \$1.269-million cost of the system, which was approved by the board and county commissioners in June, will be covered by county sales tax dollars. The system will include computer-aided dispatching for police, fire and emergency medical services, along with a police records management system, mobile computing and networking systems.

Hernando "Cliff" Harton, Jr., 39, a recently fired Columbus police officer, allegedly killed his wife, Elizabeth, a 27-year-old recruit at the Columbus police academy, on Aug. 2. He then fled their Prairie Township home with the couple's three children and his son from another relationship, and led police on a multicounty car chase. After police stopped the sports-utility vehicle he had

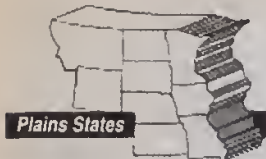
stolen, Harton ran into trees in a highway median and was shot and critically wounded by troopers from the State Highway Patrol.

WISCONSIN — Hohart-Lawrence police officers Stephanie Markins, 32, and Robert Eiter, 56, were killed July 22 while sitting in their squad car doing routine paperwork. An Oneida resident, Tyson Kreuscher, is charged with two counts of first-degree intentional homicide for allegedly ramming his truck into the patrol car at high speed. The deaths left the Hohart-Lawrence department with only two other officers, prompting other police departments in the area to help out.

Brookfield Police Chief Daniel Tushaus has been granted a temporary restraining order against one of his captains, Douglas Turner, after a psychiatric social worker warned him that Turner had made death threats about him. Turner has been on medical leave since March.

The Milwaukee County Law Enforcement Association has formed a task force to study funding alternatives for the county helicopter, as Sheriff Oavid Clarke Jr. no longer wants the expense. County budget figures show that it would cost \$384,795 next year to run the aircraft on a part-time basis, and more than \$1.5 million for full-time use. Clarke would not rule out the possibility of selling the helicopter if funding cannot be found.

Police in Sheboygan have recovered about 100 lawn ornaments at a local residence and are advising anyone who is missing an ornament to contact authorities. Among the recovered items are gnomes, trolls, Porky Pig and a chain-saw carved bear.



IOWA — The Oaenport Police Department is adding new consumer-friendly services including a new phone system in which callers will be greeted by human beings rather than recorded menu options. Also, officers will take reports in new glass-enclosed rooms so that people don't have to "bare their souls" in the middle of the lobby. Other changes will include a new lobby and a public information computer kiosk.

Police in Bettendorf are using a new automatic vehicle locator system that enables dispatchers to locate squad cars at any time, prints out the routes the cars have taken, and sends an alarm back to the station if an airbag is deployed in the event of an accident. The system, which uses global positioning satellite technology, was paid for with a \$73,500 law enforcement block grant.

MISSOURI — The Edwardsville Police Department will soon be upgrading its officers' 9mm. Smith & Wesson semiautomatics to lighter, more powerful .40-caliber Glocks. Some of the older weapons had malfunctioned, prompting the change.

Police were surprised when they encountered two venomous rattlesnakes and two large alligators during a drug raid on an apartment in Jefferson

County in mid-July. Prior to the raid, which was part of a heroin-trafficking investigation, drug task force officers had been warned about the critters, but were skeptical. When they entered the apartment, they reportedly heard the alligators "growing like dogs." One alligator was found in a bathtub, the other under a bed.

St. Louis, which in the past decade has twice had the nation's highest murder rate among large cities, posted only two homicides for the month of June. Police are hopeful that a crackdown in certain homicide-prone neighborhoods may be paying off. Under the "Cease Fire Initiative," a strong police presence was deployed to five of the city's neighborhoods. Police also cited strides in emergency medical care that are saving wounded people who in the past might have died.

Using the 1999 Columbine High School massacre in Colorado as a lesson, the Saint Louis University College of Public Service has created a CO-ROM that shows a 360-degree panoramic view of two of the city's largest high schools. The goal is to eventually develop similar software for about 170 area schools that would allow emergency response personnel to take an immediate virtual tour of a building in order to improve their ability to respond. To create the program, students and staff took panoramic photographs of each room and combined them with aerial photos, satellite images and blueprints.

NEBRASKA — For the past seven years, the state crime commission has been working on a computer network that would enable law enforcement agencies to share information. Now the newly unveiled Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System will for the first time maintain information about misdemeanor criminals, crime incidents, jail bookings, sex offenders, protection orders, parolees and probation records. So far, 199 law enforcement agencies, county attorney offices and jails have signed up for the system.

Sarpy County district judge Ronald Reagan ruled July 18 that 10 pounds of cocaine found during a traffic stop cannot be used as evidence against a woman because a trooper searched her vehicle based more on his own suspicion than on probable cause. The incident that sparked the case occurred in March, when the trooper stopped two women for speeding in a rented car on Interstate 80. The trooper said his suspicions were fueled in part by discrepancies in the women's answers to his questions. After learning that the driver had several previous arrests, he asked if he could search the car and obtained her consent. Reagan, however, said that prosecutors failed to prove that the trooper had valid consent.



ARIZONA — An investigation by the Gilbert Police Department and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has concluded that Scottsdale Sgt. Tom Hontz's death during a training exercise in February was an acci-

dent. Hontz, a SWAT team leader, was demonstrating a gas ax, a device used to break through a wall and deliver tear gas, and rather than load it with an irritant, he used a smoke canister. Investigators said that when Hontz pulled the fuse, the built-up pressure shattered the metal gas ax.

COLORADO — U. S. District Judge Richard P. Maesch has refused to dismiss a civil lawsuit brought against former Denver police chief Oavid Michaud and other Denver officers by three women who were sexually assaulted by former officer David Pollock. The women have alleged that the chief created a climate that allowed the attacks. The judge said that the chief had no system for tracking sexual misconduct among his officers and demonstrated a bias against civilian complaints. Michaud had claimed that his position immunized him against legal action in the case.

NEW MEXICO — Albuquerque Open Space police recently arrested a man after he took off the dress he was wearing and threw it on the hood of a patrol car, leaving himself completely naked. The suspect, Robert Mengden, 54, turned out to be wanted in Texas for failing to register as a sex offender.

Oathan Mobley, a 22-year-old San Juan County man, allegedly offered methamphetamine to a bail bond agent in lieu of cash in an attempt to get a friend out of jail. The agent, after refusing the drugs, mentioned the incident to a bounty hunter who then contacted police. Said Farmington Oct. Sgt. Pat Cordell, "You'd wonder if anybody in their right mind would offer to post drugs for bond?"

OKLAHOMA — Oklahoma City is planning to hire more bilingual police officers in response to its increasingly diverse population. Currently, the police department has only 14 officers who speak Spanish, 3 who speak Vietnamese, and 2 who can speak Korean. But the number of residents who say they speak an Asian language at home has increased by 77 percent in the past decade, and those who speak Spanish at home have increased by 160 percent. The department has been using foreign language radio and newspaper ads and currently has five additional bilingual officers in the police academy.

TEXAS — The Houston Police Department's six-month-old Latino Squad, set up to help solve robberies against Hispanics, is chalking up an arrest rate about three times that of the entire robbery division. Statistics show that Hispanics are more likely to be robbed than any other ethnic group in the city. The Latino Squad has so far arrested suspects in 66 percent of the 431 cases assigned to it.

Police in San Antonio are hoping that a special unit to track the department's arrests will help explain the department's flagging arrest rate, which last year dipped far below the national average. Officials believe that it was only the result of outdated computer systems and other flaws, not poor police work. Union officials, however, say that the problem is due to severe staffing shortages.

A grievance examiner has overturned a reprimand issued to Houston police

Capt. Mark Aguirre, stating that the police department's rules about profanity and conduct were so vague they could be applied arbitrarily by police officials. Police Chief C. O. Bradford gave Aguirre the written reprimand after some officers complained that Aguirre used obscene and threatening language in a staff meeting.

City officials in Harlingen say they will fight a federal judge's order to pay a \$35-million jury verdict awarded to victims of a mishandled police gun case. On July 7, 1998, Border Patrol agents Susan Lynn Rodriguez and Ricardo Guillermo Salinas were shot and killed and sheriff's deputy Raul Rodriguez was wounded while helping Cameron County deputies track a homicide suspect. The suspect, Ernest Moore, who was also killed during the shootout, used an AR-15 rifle that was originally given to the Harlingen Police Department to be destroyed, but was instead issued to Moore's police officer father, R.O. Moore. The plaintiffs in the case argued that the Harlingen Police Department failed to maintain proper custody of its firearms, creating a danger that led to the deaths.



CALIFORNIA — Using an 1872 law, Sacramento County authorities are cracking down on public drunkenness by compiling mug shots of the most serious offenders and distributing them to liquor stores with warnings not to sell to them. Anyone caught selling to offenders will face a \$1,000 fine or a year in jail.

The California Highway Patrol has apologized after officers shot six heifers that got loose in a lettuce field in Lompoc. Officers considered the cows a safety threat because they kept wandering onto the road.

On July 18, the Hemet Police Department unveiled its first armored truck, which will be used to transport Special Operations officers on hostile or violent calls. The truck was donated by AT Systems Inc., an armored car company, with the local Elks lodge providing about \$4,000 to outfit the truck with sirens, lights, platforms and seating.

Amid heavy criticism, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plans to eliminate the Cargo Cats, a special unit created to fight cargo theft. With Sheriff Lee Baca under pressure from the county Board of Supervisors to cut \$60 million in services, a decision was made to cut non-life-saving units. Because of the severity of the problem in Southern California — nearly \$1 billion worth of cargo is stolen each year — the Los Angeles Port Police has begun assembling a new unit to take the place of the Cargo Cats.

The San Fernando Police Department has been making a lot of friends since it purchased a new electric car, the Lido. The car, which is being driven by police and parking enforcement officers, reaches a top speed of 25 mph and can

be recharged by plugging it into a wall outlet. One police sergeant, who took the car for a spin during an Independence Day celebration, said he was surrounded by children who wanted rides.

In an effort to take back city parks from gangs and drug dealers, the Los Angeles Police Department will open stop-in centers at 62 of the city's parks. The centers will be used by police officers on patrol to write reports, make phone calls and chat with residents about their concerns. Other park safety initiatives undertaken this year include mounted and bicycle patrols, crime-suppression units, and "safe house" placards at designated park buildings.

Ruling in a DWI case, the California Supreme Court has warned that police must closely follow the rules governing the use of breath test machines or the tests could eventually lose their reliability and be held inadmissible at trial. The court nonetheless reversed an appellate court finding that test results were inadmissible in the case of Steven Vaughn Williams because the officer who administered the test did not fully comply with state regulations.

HAWAII — The Honolulu Police Department plans to give its three-wheeled scooters to other city departments, or put them up for sale, after taking them out of service because of safety concerns. The vehicles were also a problem because of costly replacement parts and the lack of security for the laptop computers that the department is planning to put in its vehicles.

IDAHO — Idaho Falls police have begun parking a police car with a uniformed mannequin at the wheel on streets where speeding has been a problem. The car will be moved frequently throughout the city. Once people catch on that it's a mannequin, human officers will take its place.

OREGON — The case of 14-year-old Melissa Bittler, who was raped and killed last December, has taught Portland detectives that even in cases that are not initially strong enough to prosecute, the DNA evidence should be submitted for processing. DNA from Bittler's body was connected to another 14-year-old rape victim who described her attacker. However, rape kits from attacks on two other girls had not been entered into the database — along with more than 1,000 others — and were analyzed only this year when detectives found the kits in the property division. Tests on all four DNA samples matched the suspect in the Bittler case, who was arrested in late May. Until this year, Portland police did not routinely submit DNA evidence from rape cases to the state crime lab.

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court has ruled that the Washington State Patrol did nothing wrong by allowing Gregory Lawson, a Jehovah's Witness, to resign from the patrol academy, because his religion would not permit him to swear allegiance as part of the trooper's oath. A lawyer for the state said that the patrol would have accommodated Lawson's faith, and disputed the cadet's version of events, in which he said a patrol captain told him otherwise. The judges in the appellate majority said that Lawson showed no evidence that he had resigned because conditions were intolerable.

Like he never left

After a two-week vacation, a rested — and retired — **Reuben Greenberg** went back to work on July 22 as police chief of Charleston, S.C.

Greenberg took advantage of a retirement system that allows him to receive a percentage of his \$119,380 salary as a retirement benefit while continuing on the job. It's a win-win situation for the city, said Police Maj. **Herb Whetsell**. Charleston gets to keep its experienced employees and those employees get what amounts to a big raise.

"It's a good, hard-earned benefit, so Chief Greenberg is availing himself of that right, which I certainly support," said Mayor **Joseph P. Riley Jr.**

The chief in Charleston since 1982, Greenberg, 59, will collect a retirement benefit of approximately 60 percent of his salary. His vacation and sick time will also drop back to zero. Greenberg must take 15 days off, however, between officially retiring and returning to work. Lt. Col. **Ned Hethington** ran the department in Greenberg's absence.

Whetsell said he and the city's iconic chief were in almost daily contact during the "retirement." "The chief can't get too far away," Whetsell told *The Charleston Post and Courier*. "He's got to stay on top of things. This is his life. He loves police work."

Magnetic Compass

Vowing never to forget his "street cop" roots, the new police superintendent of New Orleans, Capt. **Eddie Compass**, was introduced to the public in May just 20 minutes after learning he got the job.

A 23-year veteran, Compass was selected by Mayor **Ruy Nolin** over a number of superior officers, including Deputy Chief **Mitchell Dusset** and Assistant Superintendent **Duane Johnson**, who ran the department while former superintendent **Richard Pennington** was making his run for mayor.

"Even though the mayor has blessed me with this position and made me chief of police, which I'm honored and humbled by," said Compass, "I'm still a policeman. And I will never forget that I was a policeman. I always will be a policeman because I feel the pain of the men and women in the street. I think that's been the secret to my success."

The mayor said that what sold him on Compass was his affinity for technology and his ability to solve problems by coming up with outside-of-the-box solutions. Compass also had a "track record of success," Nolin said, in helping to bring down New Orleans' homicide rate and in implementing community policing programs.

The commander of the department's first COPS unit, Compass was promoted in 1997 to head of the city's 1st Police District. When Pennington stepped down to run for mayor, Compass assumed the interim position of deputy chief of operations, running the agency's weekly Comstat meeting.

Still to be hashed out is whether Nolin will give Compass the latitude

to pick his own management team. There is also the question of salary. While Compass will be given a raise from his \$65,000 captain's salary, the exact amount remains undetermined. Pennington earned \$150,000 a year, making him one of the highest paid department heads in the city's government.

Compass, 42, said he is not concerned about trying to fill his predecessor's shoes. "Chief Pennington did an outstanding job as chief of this department," he told *The New Orleans Times-Picayune*. "Chief Pennington had his style and I have my style."

He then added, "I plan on being just as successful as Chief Pennington was, if not more."

Just one regret

If there is one regret Tulsa Police Chief **Ron Palmer** has now that he is leaving the force he has led for the past decade, it is that he was not able to convince city officials that entering into a federal consent decree was a bad idea. That agreement, which was proposed earlier this year to end a lawsuit brought by black officers in 1998, is emblematic of the type of strife that Palmer had been brought on board to end. And he believes that, for the most part, he has been successful.

Palmer served his last day as chief on July 3, a month short of 10 years after he had been hired to "stop the bleeding," he said. He started his career in Kansas City, Mo., then spent two years as chief in Portsmouth, Va., before being tapped to head the Tulsa force in 1992. At the time, **Drew Diamond** had resigned as chief amid a no-confidence vote from the police union and complaints that his community-policing theories were soft on crime. On the other hand, many black officers felt Diamond had been unfairly pushed out.

Palmer came under scrutiny by black leaders almost immediately. Within the first month of his tenure, he launched an internal investigation when an African American officer, **Rufus Newsome**, told the media that a black youth told him of being beaten by officers during an arrest. The probe found no misconduct and the officer who made the charges was suspended.

The following year, Palmer added a full-time minority recruitment officer, placed a minority officer in the department's Internal Affairs Unit, and implemented a cadet program geared toward recruiting minorities.

In 1997, Palmer, who holds a bachelor's degree in business personnel administration and a master's in industrial security, made the Tulsa police force the first one of its size in the nation to require its officers to have a college degree.

Despite Palmer's initiatives, racial tension continued to plague the department. An event that threw the rift into stark relief was when Newsome, as chaplain of the Black Officers Association, shook the hand of the defendant charged with shooting Officer **Gus Spanos** at point-blank range during a traffic stop on April 22, 1993.

"I do think that was a defining moment for many officers and it was controversial," said Palmer. "**Anthony Kinibrough** happened to be black, but

we would have put the same effort into finding **Gus Spanos'** killer no matter what his race, no matter where he was."

In January 1994, a black officer, **Roy C. Johnson**, filed a discrimination suit with the city. By 1998, it had reached class-action status. This past February, the city signed a proposed consent decree with the plaintiffs that could cost from \$4.5 million to \$5 million to implement. (It was also in February that Palmer fired Johnson for false arrests.)

"If I have any regrets, it is that I could not exact more influence with the appropriate people regarding the consent decree," said Palmer. "The men and women of this department are undeserving of that. That should have never happened here."

Packing his bags

An Iowa police academy instructor will be teaching Western crime-fighting methods and American-style policing to a state police force of 140,000 members in Nigeria for the next six months.

Mike Nehring, a former Des Moines officer and instructor at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, was chosen by the Department of Justice for the mission. It will be his second overseas assignment. In 2000, Nehring was sent to Kosovo for six months.

"People know I've got a somewhat of an adventurous spirit," said Nehring. "I look at it as a new adventure."

The timing of the trip could not be better for the academy, which is facing a 27-percent budget cut this fiscal year, according to director **Penny Westfall**. "It's not something we'd want for an extended period," she told *The Associated Press*, "but with the budget, it does make it easier to let him go now."

Nigeria, a country of 126 million, has been riven by ethnic, religious and political conflict. With shoot-on-sight authority, police have killed hundreds of suspected criminals this year, said Nehring. Recent weeks have brought lobbying from citizens for greater accountability, he said.

Nehring will write training manuals and provide instruction to the Nigerian State Police. Authorities want to increase the force by an additional 40,000 officers.

Up to the challenge

After having whipped a demoralized East St. Louis, Ill., Police Department into shape nearly a decade ago, the new chief of Richmond, Va., **Andre Parker**, is ready to take whatever the city has to offer.

Parker was a lieutenant colonel with the Illinois State Police in 1993 when he was asked to work a miracle in East St. Louis. One of the most violent cities in the nation, with 54 homicides that year in a population of 41,000, East St. Louis police had few sidearms and fewer vehicles. They often bought their own handguns and a labor dispute left some working for nothing.

Parker was not beloved by the force he supervised when he was made acting public safety director in 1993 and

1994 — in fact, many resented him and still do — but he is credited with turning the agency around. From 1992 to 1995, the number of murders fell from 61 to 33.

"If I could have afforded him here, you wouldn't have him," said East St. Louis Mayor **Debra Powell**. "Richmond is blessed to have Lieutenant Colonel Parker."

Perhaps so, but City Council members in the Virginia capital sure didn't act like it, according to a number of officials who attended his introduction.

Apparently, a debate ensued over whether to fire City Manager **Calvin D. Jamison**, who appointed Parker. Council members also discussed whether a public safety director should be hired as Parker's boss. Under the current system, Parker would report to Jamison.

"I thought it was the height of rudeness," former Richmond police chief **Jerry A. Oliver** told *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Oliver is now chief of the Detroit Police Department.

Parker, however, said he did not take it personally. "There has been a lot of tragedy and grief in my life, but I remain positive because my faith sustains me through all of the challenges in life," he said. "I think I can get through just about anything."

Heavenly sauce

By all indications, Troy's Treasure, a barbecue sauce, will soon break out of New Jersey and into the national consciousness. But until then, its creator is keeping his day job as a Cherry Hill police officer.

Troy Oglesby, 39, has always been an entrepreneur. Working his way through college at DePaul University at a friend's uniform store, he opened his own police supply shop in Camden when he returned to his home state. In addition to the barbecue sauce, Oglesby also operates a steakhouse in Camden.

"My vision is to continue in law enforcement," he said. "My heart is in serving."

A devout Christian, Oglesby said Troy's Treasure was divinely inspired. Through prayer, he said, he was able to discover the sauce's two key ingredients: liquid smoke and apple-cider vinegar. The sauce is apparently so good that after only a year, it is on the shelves of local ShopRite supermarkets and is expected at other groceries soon. With an anticipated \$650,000 in revenue, Oglesby should also make a profit.

"My customers absolutely love it," said **Christos Mourtos**, the owner of a local restaurant. "We get requests for the sauce as a side in orders that don't have it. It's a good sauce. It's different from the others."

Steve Ravitz, whose family operates three local ShopRites, keeps Troy's Treasure stocked year round.

"He is a perfect example of an entrepreneur at the grass-roots level," he told *The Associated Press*. "He's a shining example of what an independent operation could and should be."

Added Ravitz's son **Jason**, the director of retail operations for the family's stores: "We usually shy away from local merchants, but Troy's product was exceptionally high quality. It's different than the run-of-the-mill sauce and national brands."

Earl change

His tenure may only last 18 months until the city's next mayor takes office, but San Francisco's new police chief **Earl Sanders** believes it will be enough to get done what needs to be done. After all, he's had 38 years to dream about the job.

An assistant chief under chief **Fred Lau** for six years, and before that a homicide inspector, Sanders was named to the top post on July 11 by Mayor **Willie Brown**. Brown's term, however, runs out in January 2004, which could leave Sanders, who serves at the mayor's pleasure, out of a job in less than two years. Still, he said, "I've been thinking about his job for years. It's a dream come true."

Sanders, 64, is the city's first black chief. Three decades ago, he led a group of African American officers who sued the department for discrimination. While he had been considered the front runner for the post, it was not until the 11th hour that it was clear Brown would select Sanders, who in 1996 had been passed over in favor of **Lau**.

A 27-year veteran of the homicide bureau, Sanders worked on some of San Francisco's most sensational cases, including the massacre at a California Street building in 1993 in which eight people and the gunman died, and the Zebra killings, in which four blacks were eventually convicted of slaying 14 whites during a six-month period during the 1970s.

His No. 2 will be Capt. **Alex Fagan**, a 29-year veteran who was approved unanimously — as was Sanders — by the Police Commission.

"They both worked the streets for years," said Brown. "They both literally come from the streets, and they know how to make our investigations bureau the best in the nation."

The first order of business will be whipping that unit into shape. A recent series of articles in *The San Francisco Chronicle* asserted that the agency has solved just 28 percent of violent crimes, the lowest rate among the nation's 20 largest cities. Just half of the murders and one-third of the rapes that were reported in the past five years were solved, and nearly 70 percent of robberies and serious assaults were not investigated.

"There are a lot of things not getting done — the new chief needs to get in there and kick some butt," said **Napoleon Hendrix**, a retired homicide inspector who was Sanders' partner for 16 years. "Earl needs to get in more folks in investigations and get the right people — people who are going to get things done."

Don't stop now — there's more

More people and more places can be found in "Now You Seem Them, Now You Don't," on Page 6.

UCR shows 10-year crime drop at an end

Last year, as the nation's law enforcement priorities turned increasingly toward counterterrorism, and the economy began to slide, the United States became a more violent place, according to preliminary statistics from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, which showed the first uptick in crime since 1992.

Overall, crime rose by 2 percent in 2001 compared to the previous year, with the volume of violent offenses up by 0.6 percent. Murders increased by 3 percent, and robbery by 3.9 percent — the steepest rise among violent offenses. The homicide total does not include the 3,000 victims lost in the terror attacks on Sept. 11.

Of the nation's four regions, the West recorded the biggest jump in crime volume from 2000 — 1.7 percent. It was followed by the South with 1.0 percent. Those regions also had the biggest increases in crime index totals — 4.5 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively.

The South was the only region to experience a decline in murders, of 2.1 percent.

The only category of violent crime to fall in 2001 was aggravated assault, down by 1.6 percent. While homicides and car thefts rose significantly nationwide, New York City experienced sharp decreases in many categories. Violent crime in New York declined by 10 percent overall, with homicides falling by 3.6 percent. Vehicle theft led to decrease

in property crimes, falling by 16.3 percent.

The city's decrease was largely responsible for the 8-percent dip in major crimes in New York State. Crime levels did rise, however, in some upstate cities, including Albany, which saw a 3-percent hike.

"Murder is the most reliable indicator of serious crime we have," said Jack Levin, director of the Brudnick Center on Violence at Northeastern University, in an earlier interview with The Boston Herald. "This is the beginning of the turnaround."

In Boston, murders rose by 67 percent last year, a sign to many that the vaunted Boston model for reducing homicides was running out of steam. From 1990 to 1999, using a strategy called Operation Cease-Fire, the city cut homicides by 80 percent. Cease-Fire involved calling in a team of federal, state and local law enforcement to meet with individual gang members and other young men with criminal records. The gang members were given stern warnings that they would face serious prison time if convicted of further violent crimes with guns.

From a high of 152 murders in 1990, the number had fallen to 31 in 1999. But in 2001, 66 murders were recorded. So far this year, there have been 29 murders, a total matching that for the same period in 2001.

"Part of the secret of Cease-Fire was that you have to follow up," said

Donald K. Stern, a U.S. attorney in Boston during the Clinton administration who helped develop the program, in an interview with The New York Times. "You have to keep warning people, and if they commit more violence, you have to get them and give them long sentences to make an example of them."

There is no guarantee the warnings will work, however. In the case of Marquis Nelson, a man arrested in the shooting of a 10-year-old girl in July, a Cease-Fire team had warned Nelson six weeks before the incident.

Said David Kennedy, a lecturer at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government who was instrumental in the development of Cease-Fire: "As it existed in 1996 or 1997, Cease-Fire is entirely gone." Instead of focusing on the most dangerous criminals, he told The Times, the warnings are given indiscriminately to large groups in a watered-down version, "like old-fashioned police work."

In Cincinnati, crime is soaring, with homicides up 76.5 percent during the first five months of this year as compared with 2001. Rapes rose by 36.7 percent, robberies by 31.2 percent, and burglaries by 11.4 percent.

Police contend that in the aftermath of the riots that shook the city in 2001, law enforcement has backed off and an "air of permissiveness" was created. Crime began rising as enforcement waned, said Lieut. Col. Rick Bichl.

According to George Kelling, a criminal justice professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey, the phenomenon, known as de-policing, could be affecting other areas where law enforcement is under scrutiny for racial profiling.

"A lot of police are now so worried about getting trouble, they are disengaging," he told USA Today.

California last year boasted eight of the 10 safest cities in the nation, but Los Angeles and a number of jurisdictions in the Bay Area experienced spikes in violent offenses.

Homicides in the San Fernando Valley leaped by 80 percent during the first five months of 2001 compared with 2000, according to statistics released in June. During a two-year period, they leaped citywide 47 percent, from 180 in 2000, to 188 last year, and to 265 from January through June of 2002.

With a Valley peace accord now almost a decade-old memory, gang retaliations have been responsible for more than 60 percent of murders in the East-hill Division, said Los Angeles police. In Devonshire, half of the 12 homicides so far this year have been gang-related.

Even in Glendale, which ranked seventh among the most crime-free cities in the nation, aggravated assaults were up by 22.2 percent and robberies by 32.5 percent during the first quarter of this year as compared to the same period in 2001, according to police statistics. Vehicle thefts also rose, by 14

percent.

"We certainly have to wonder if we have hit the bottom and the pendulum is swinging back the other way, but it's a little too early to tell," said Chief Russell Silverling.

Glendale's crime rate has traditionally been low, noted city crime analyst Jack H. Altouman. "Suddenly we have an increase," he told The Los Angeles Daily News. "The last five or six months have been very rare. It's unbelievable of Glendale."

The other top-ranked California cities, according to the UCR and census figures, were Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks, which competed for the first spot. Sunnyvale and Daly City, Santa Clara, Huntington Beach and Irvine.

"The cities are very homogeneous — they have no great divisions between those who have and those who have not," said Paul Jesilow, a member of the department of criminology, law and society at the University of California-Irvine.

In the Bay Area, crime rates for the cities of Berkeley, Concord, Daly City, Fremont, Oakland, San Jose, Santa Clara, Santa Rosa and Vallejo rose in 2001, by 10.5 percent in Santa Rosa and by nearly 20 percent in Berkeley. Daly City, while still considered one of the safest jurisdictions in the country, saw a jump of 7.9 percent.

Other cities around the nation that saw increases in property and violent offenses in 2001 included:

■ Denver, which saw a leap of 23.1 percent in auto thefts and a 42.4 percent jump in homicides.

■ Houston, where homicides rose by 16 percent from 2000 to 2001. The city reported increases in every category of violent crime last year.

There goes the neighborhood: Binge drinking problems spill over from college campuses

No longer just a problem on college campuses, binge-drinking by students — and the fallout from it — is spreading out to surrounding communities where behaviors such as public urination and vandalism are affecting residents' quality of life, according to a new study by Harvard researchers.

A survey of more than 2,000 households nationwide found that those living near college campuses were more likely to experience the secondhand effects of alcohol, such as vomiting, drunkenness, noise and other disturbances. The areas with the most disruptions also had high numbers of liquor stores, bars, clubs and other alcohol outlets, said the report.

"I think we can take from this that the occasional complaints of neighbors are not simply from one college or from one person, but are part of a national phenomena," said Henry Wechsler, a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health and the lead author of "Sec-

ondhand Effects of Student Alcohol Use. Reported by Neighbors of Colleges: The Role of Alcohol Outlets."

In an interview with Law Enforcement News, Wechsler noted, "College drinking affects the quality of life in neighborhoods near colleges. The communities need to protect the citizens from this."

According to the survey, which was published in July by the journal Social Science and Medicine, those living within a mile of college campuses tended to have significantly lower incomes than those living farther away. There were also more individuals between the ages of 18 and 24, more African Americans and fewer homeowners. Some 92 percent of residents who lived close to campus reported at least one or more bars, clubs or liquor stores within a mile of their home.

The community problem most frequently reported, the study reported, was underage drinking — cited by 60.8

percent of respondents — followed by crime, 55.6 percent; vandalism, 52.3 percent, and drunken driving, 47.9 percent. Homelessness, public drunkenness, drug use and loitering were also reported more often by those living near a campus than by others.

College students were thought by respondents living near a campus to be responsible for litter, noise, vandalism and drunkenness, but not for public urination or fighting, the study said.

"The colleges' contribution to neighborhood problems appears to operate through the presence of alcohol outlets," the researchers reported. "Our findings suggest that alcohol outlets are more often located in areas near colleges, particularly those with a high rate of binge drinking."

Research has shown that the presence of alcohol outlets is related to car accidents and crime, noted Wechsler. "The indirect... effects of college, student drinking, and socioeconomic sta-

tus on secondhand problems are stronger than direct effects," said the study, "indicating that the presence of alcohol outlets appears to be essential for colleges and their binge-drinking students to have a significant effect on neighborhood disruption."

One way of countering this would be to limit the number of liquor stores and bars in the areas adjacent to colleges, the report said. Reducing the number of outlets in conjunction with current attempts to change student behavior through educational and motivational techniques, said the study, could be an important strategy. Among the recommendations made by the study is stricter enforcement of laws prohibiting liquor sales to patrons already showing signs of intoxication and the serving and selling of alcohol to minors. The study also suggests raising licensing fees and alcohol taxes to pay for the prevention and cleanup of neighborhood disruptions.

A new look for federal death benefits — any beneficiary will do, even same-sex partners

An inadvertent victory was scored for gay rights last month when President Bush signed a bill that expands the federal public safety officers' death benefit to include the same-sex partners of police and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Although similar legislation had been proposed more than a decade ago by Representative Donald Manzullo, a Republican of Illinois, at the behest of the Rockford Police Department, the idea took on greater impetus after Sept.

11. Under the old law, drafted 34 years ago, only a spouse, parent or child could claim the \$250,000 death benefit. The new law, called the Mychal Judge Act after the New York Fire Department chaplain who died at the World Trade Center, anyone designated as a beneficiary can collect the sum.

The law was rewritten for people like Judge, who left no spouse or child, said Rich Carter of Manzullo's office. At least 10 other police and firefighters who died that day named someone other

than immediate family as their beneficiary. They will all be covered retroactively.

"From our perspective, it was never done because of same-sex couples," Carter told The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Scott Stanzel, a spokesman for the White House, said Bush's motivation for signing the bill was based on expanding the benefit to include anyone listed as a beneficiary, as is appropriate. Politics, said officials, was the furthest thing from the president's mind

when he made the legislation law.

The bill was signed with little fanfare on June 24. The word "gay" was never mentioned at the signing.

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Group's luncheon menu includes cold cases

For the members of the Vidocq Society, an elite group of sleuths and criminalists who re-examine some of the most brutal murders in police agencies' cold-case files, it is not all fine dining in the charming 19th-century environs of Philadelphia's historic Public Ledger Building.

Over the course of 12 years, the society has helped local law enforcement solve a number of prominent cases, including the 1984 murders in Pennsylvania of Terry Brooks, a fast-food restaurant manager, and of Drexel University student Deborah Lynn Wilson. Virtually all of the group's cases come from police agencies or relatives and are from five to 15 years old.

"There are a lot of cases we solve where we don't even really work them," Nathan J. Conlon, a polygraph expert and society member, told Law Enforcement News. "We just act more as a go-between between family and law enforcement to get things going. There is a tendency if you don't break the case in 48 hours to just push the paper and move on. So we act as a sort of agitator."

Each month a case is presented to the members at an elegant luncheon. Before the society will take on a case, all parties have to agree, including the law enforcement agency whose jurisdiction is involved. "Most of our people are actively in law enforcement, so we try not to step on anyone's toes," said Gordon. Members vote on whether to take on a case that they feel "is workable for us," and that they have the "expertise to have positive input with the good possibility of an outcome."

The group was created by three retired law enforcement officials: William Fleischer, a former FBI agent and U.S. Customs Service administrator; Frank Bender, a sculptor and forensic reconstructionist; and Richard Walter, a forensic psychologist and profiler.

"They got together for a casual lunch, they discussed some famous case from the past — some Jack the Ripper-type case, and they had such a good time talking about it, they decided to form an organization that would meet quarterly, discuss an old case, and see if we could figure out who may have done it," Gordon told L EN.

The society is named after Eugène-François Vidocq, an 18th-century French detective who went on to help found France's police force, the Sûreté. Because he lived to be 82, the society has just 82 full-fledged members who are voted in much the same as if they were joining an exclusive country club. It also has about 70 associates from around the world. Both associates and members come from a wide variety of criminal justice fields, including forensics, the law and policing. Only those belonging to the group as members can vote on whether to accept a case.

Among its members are Robert K. Ressler, the former FBI profiler who interviewed such serial killers as John Wayne Gacy and David Berkowitz, and Edgar Adamson, chief of the U.S. National Central Bureau of Interpol.

The Brooks case was perhaps the most famous in the Philadelphia area to be cracked by the society, said Gordon. Brooks was an assistant manager at a Levittown, Pa., Roy Rogers restaurant when she was stabbed and strangled during a holdup on Feb. 4, 1986. A safe with restaurant receipts was taken in the robbery.

At the time, police had cleared the man with whom the victim was romantically involved. One of the suggestions made by the society, said Gordon, was that investigators reinterview all witnesses as if the crime had just happened. In doing so, it turned out that Brooks had had a new boyfriend, Scott Keefe, whom her mother always believed to have been her murderer.

"So based on that conversation, they had a new prime suspect," said Gordon. "They search for Scott Keefe, but they can't find anybody by that name. They call us up, and we recommend they look in the funeral home where people sign in. And lo and behold, they find an Alan Scott O'Keefe who turns out to be living in the area."

After retrieving a cigarette butt from O'Keefe's trash, police were able to match his DNA to the crime scene. O'Keefe failed two polygraph tests given by Gordon and Fleischer. He confessed soon after and was arrested on Feb. 5, 1999.

In the Wilson case, the victim was found strangled and barefoot in a cam-

pus basement hallway. At the recommendation of the society, detectives cross-checked the records of university staff members to see if any had been suspected of having a foot fetish. Investigators found a campus security guard who had been court-martialed for stealing a woman's sneakers. In 1995,

the guard was convicted of Wilson's murder.

The society has also remained involved in the "Boy in the Box" case, a 45-year-old murder in which the naked body of a battered child was found stuffed inside a cardboard box and dumped in Philadelphia's Fox Chase

section. While hopes were raised in July by a Cincinnati woman who said she had known the boy prior to his death in 1957, the lead turned out to be a dead end, according to The Associated Press.

"The information has been inconclusive," said Philadelphia homicide Capt. Thomas Lippo.

Personalized graduate degree available from a distance

Getting a personalized graduate education at Boston University's Metropolitan College does not mean having to get up close and personal with instructors and fellow students in a traditional classroom setting, thanks to the college's online master's degree program in criminal justice.

The university's first full graduate degree to be offered via the Internet, the accelerated program consists of nine courses totaling 36 credits. Criminal justice professionals focus on only one class at a time, participating in two six-week courses per semester. While many of the students who completed the first semester were from the West Coast and Alaska, individuals from Japan, Singapore and other foreign countries are registered for the fall semester.

"The new program's curriculum enables working professionals to improve and expand their knowledge and competencies in criminal justice and law enforcement research, theory and practice," said Dan LeClair, chairman of the criminal justice program.

With a textbook, a syllabus and lectures, the curriculum is identical to that taught in a classroom, LeClair told Law Enforcement News. But using a computer has a number of advantages for both students and instructors, he said.

"They can go into the lecture and work on it half an hour, and then go eat, take a nap, go to work, then come back to it," he said. "It has flexibility, they can go back if they don't understand it."

There is also a real-time component in which students can read posted answers to questions sent either to the class or to individuals. If their schedules do not allow for this, they can read them at a later time. Another feature is a weekly chat session. The class picks a day and time when most can be online and join in a one-hour discussion.

"Due to the nature of the professions of many of our students, if someone can't make the discussion, it's preserved permanently in the course format so they can go back. We can restart the discussion that way," he told L EN.

While there are local police officers enrolled in the program, the majority of the class is made up of federal agents. What police there are tend to be chiefs and those of higher rank, said LeClair. "I have a funny feeling that as your rank goes up in the police field, you don't want to be in a classroom with people below you in rank. This way, it's a bit more" anonymous, he said.

For LeClair, who developed the curriculum and taught the program's first class this summer, being online allows

him to perfect his lectures.

"In the classroom, you get side-tracked, somebody asks a question and you tell a story and forget your main point, or time just runs out," he said. "In this case, it allows you go back with a completed lecture and say, 'I need to expand on this,' or 'This isn't clear.'"

At the end of each lecture, LeClair said he would give a quiz. Because of the technology, the test would be instantly corrected and students would be told where they could find the correct answer in the lecture. They can go back over the material, then take the quiz again as many times as they want.

"This is real enhancement because when you're doing something online, if they fall behind, they'll become overwhelmed," he said. But having to complete the quizzes within a certain time frame gives them some feedback on how well they are doing, said LeClair.

He also gives short assignments, such as asking students to watch the evening news and sort the different categories of crime for that area. When that is posted, it is reviewed by the class.

"This is the hardest thing to explain to traditional professors, like I was before I did this course: You can do almost anything you can do in a classroom, and more," said LeClair.

Now you see them, now you don't

Two long-time law enforcement executives said goodbye to all that in July: Washington County, Ore., Sheriff Jim Spinden and Mansfield, Ohio, Police Chief Lawrence E. Harper.

Spinden served 10 years as sheriff during a 31-year career with the Washington County department, one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the state. During his last term in office, a string of incidents forced him into the media glare.

In 2000, a year in which he ran unopposed, an admitted rapist escaped from one of his correction officers as he was being escorted from the courthouse to a holding cell. The defendant was captured the next day. Then a man wanted in connection with a series of armed robberies escaped while handcuffed from the back seat of a patrol car. In addition, jail deputies turned away a woman wanted for murder.

Announcing his resignation to his employees via email, the 52-year-old Spinden wrote of wanting to spend more time with his family. "I just feel it's right for me... I want to be a normal person again," he said.

Harper who retired on July 19, holds the record as both the longest serving member of the Mansfield department and its longest-serving chief. He joined the agency in 1948 and was named chief in 1990. A graduate of Ashtand University, he also attended the Ohio State University Police Executive Leadership College.

Other agencies welcomed new leaders this summer. In Aurora, Ill., Deputy Chief William Lawlor, a 23-year veteran, was tapped to succeed retiring chief Larry Langston.

The chief of the new Hualapai Tribal Police Department in Arizona is former Mohave County sheriff's lieutenant Dale D. Lent. "He has proven law enforcement background with plenty of experience and we look forward to his help with establishing our police department," said Louise Benson, the tribe's chairwoman. A member of the United Nations International Police Task Force in Kosovo and Sarajevo, Lent will build and lead a force of 11 officers who will patrol Peach Springs and the Hualapai reservation about 50 miles northeast of Kingman.

In Clifton, N.J., Robert Ferreri is the new chief of police, succeeding Frank Lo Gioco, who retired in May

after reaching mandatory retirement age. A 28-year veteran, Ferreri promised to form a community task force that would enable the department to work in tandem with other municipal agencies to tackle neighborhood problems, such as drugs and gang violence.

Lubbock, Texas, officials named Claude Jones as the city's new police chief in July. He will replace former chief Ken Walker, who had been put on administrative leave after an officer accidentally shot a fellow officer during a SWAT raid. Walker later resigned and Jones has been serving as interim chief for the past year.

Fontana, Wis., Police Chief Steve Olson should not be allowed to return to work until his active duty with the Air National Guard ends, according to a resolution adopted by the Village Board's Protection Committee. Prior to being shipped overseas for a three-month assignment in Bahrain, Olson was working more than 40 hours a week as chief, and spending time guarding Air National Guard facilities in Madison. He returned from the Middle East in early June.

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The course is intended for clinicians and other staff who provide mental health services for law enforcement officers and their families. These services are urgently needed as officers have been called upon not only to meet their usual responsibilities but also to combat terrorism. The course will review the collaboration between Columbia University and the NYPD and focus on access to treatment and the importance of peer support, as well as such clinical topics as acute stress disorder, alcoholism and suicidal risk. In addition, family issues will be addressed, including the relevance of the anniversary reaction in the context of September 2002.

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Mo. campus pioneers with animal cruelty school

Protecting people from other people — even sometimes from animals — is a big part of what police usually do. In recent years, though, law enforcement has increasingly found itself in the position of protecting animals from people.

Enter the National Cruelty Training School, a division of the Law Enforcement Training Institute based at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Perhaps the only program of its kind to offer such instruction, the school joined hands in May with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Under the partnership, the Humane Society will provide instruction for police and for civilians who work with law enforcement on animal cruelty issues.

"In the last 10 or 12 years, animal abuse issues, like child abuse issues, have really come to the forefront," Dr. Gary P. Maddox, the director of the training institute, said in an interview with Law Enforcement News. "Police departments have more and more taken on the role of animal protection and animal control. They're looking around desperately for training where none really existed before."

Over the past dozen years, some 2,000 to 3,000 law enforcement and civilian personnel have trained at the school, said Maddox. Courses are sometimes booked as much as two years in advance. The school offers three levels of instruction, each 40 hours long. At its most basic, the training includes such topics as animal cruelty, interview and interrogation techniques, search and seizure, evidence

collection, testifying skills and officer safety. The advanced classes offer instruction on animal fighting, animal hoarding, cases involving large or exotic animals, puppy mills and traveling entertainment shows. Also covered are compassion fatigue, federal animal welfare and juvenile law.

The number of incidents has not increased in recent years, said Maddox, but there is far less tolerance for animal cruelty. Twenty years ago, he observed, "nobody would pay attention to some redneck clowns shooting wild horses." But in July, a Missouri man was charged with animal abuse after putting a live kitten on a barbecue grill as others watched in amusement. The 7-week-old tabby had to be put down after suffering severe burns. The defendant, Charles Benoit, who is jailed in lieu of \$10,000 bail, could be sentenced to up to five years in prison if convicted.

"He's going down for it," said Maddox. "Unfortunately, it [animal cruelty] was ignored for centuries, but like child abuse issues, it's very important."

One of the topics taught at the school is the link between domestic violence and animal abuse, he said.

"It's very important for police and animal control officers to have the skills and knowledge to investigate animal cruelty cases," said Virginia Previas, manager of the Humane Society's First Strike campaign. "And since the connection between animal cruelty and human violence is well documented, successful prosecution of animal cruelty cases clearly helps people, too."

Even with increased penalties for

violence against animals, cruelty is pervasive, said the organization. In 2001, some 1,677 cases came to the humane society's attention.

Recently, an 18-year-old Tampa youth was sentenced to three years in prison for attacking two llamas with a golf club. One was killed and the other had its eye gouged out. The teenager, Brandon Eldred, was already serving time for attacking two bulls with a bow and arrow. The sentences will run concurrently.

In Boulder, Colo., two young brothers ages 8 and 10, were identified as suspects by police in the beating of two

fawns outside a housing complex in July. Police and animal control officers found the fawns with bloodied faces and returned them to the deer believed to be their mother.

In Madison County, Mo., more than twice the number of animal abuse and neglect cases were filed in the six months since a state law allowed for higher penalties than were filed all of last year. Prosecutors may now seek felony charges instead of misdemeanor charges in certain cases, and humane societies can seek repayment from the abuser for an abused animal's care. The law also requires psychological coun-

seling for people who hoard companion animals, such as dogs and cats.

"The reason we are more aware is because science has told us there is a connection between how someone treats animals and how that person treats people," said Maj. Richard Miller of the Granite City Police Department. The agency filed three of the county's five felony animal abuse charges this year. At least one officer on every shift is familiar with the law, he said. Patrol officers are encouraged to investigate such cases. "Animal Abuse can lead to other abuse," he told The St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

From a paper napkin, coming soon to a crime lab near you

Some of the best ideas in policing seem to begin life on a paper napkin — first Compstat, now a DNA sequencing method that promises to sharply reduce the time and expense associated with matching and identifying samples.

The method being developed by Phil Danielson, a University of Denver biology professor, and Gregg LaBerge, head of the Denver Police Department's forensic DNA unit, uses mitochondrial DNA instead of nuclear DNA, the standard in police work.

While not superior in its ability to make a match to an individual, mitochondrial DNA is the last type of DNA to be recovered and can still be harvested when body tissue is degraded,

said LaBerge. Moreover, technicians need just a two-centimeter length of hair, or the saliva from the top of a soda can, to gather enough of it to try for a match. When using nuclear DNA, a blood sample about the size of a quarter is necessary.

LaBerge came up with the concept while researching his doctorate at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Taking it to Danielson, the two fleshed out the idea.

"Gregg said to me, 'I think I have a way to increase the speed and efficiency of mit-analysis,'" said Danielson. "We drew some things on a paper napkin."

The method uses a Fragment Analysis System the size of a suitcase. Inside is a hollow tube filled with microscopic plastic beads, from which hang chains of carbon atoms. When DNA from the suspect and the crime scene are placed in the capsules, they are picked up by robotic arms and put into the tube. The DNA will either interact or not with the beads as it moves through the center of the column. The method can process 96 samples at a time within five to six hours.

Using their method, it would take only about 10 minutes to run the DNA sample through a fragment-analysis instrument — a process that typically takes 20 to 40 minutes and costs ap-

proximately \$30. The big savings, however, comes later. Instead of the \$4,000 it might take to run one sample in a system which often requires 10 samples, according to The Rocky Mountain News, the new process could cost \$100 or less.

"We take a snapshot of the whole molecule at once, so you can tell immediately if there are similarities or differences," Danielson told The News.

Mitochondrial DNA, which is passed exclusively through maternal lineage, can be the same among family members. It is also found in places where nuclear DNA does not show up, such as hair follicles, and in certain blood cells. After Sept. 11, hundreds of relatives showed up with hairbrushes hoping that investigators could find a mitochondrial match using a hair sample.

The new method will not replace nuclear sequencing, said LaBerge, but it can narrow down a list of likely suspects. It may, in fact, be able to help the FBI process thousands of new sequences of mitochondrial DNA. A forensic scientist, he said, can learn how to use the machine with just a week of training.

"If this makes sampling much cheaper, I can see a lot of police labs jumping on this," said Danielson.

Brits eye radical CJ changes to fight rising violent crime

Faced with double-digit increases in violent crime and dwindling public confidence in law enforcement and the courts, British authorities in July set out a long-term strategy for overhauling the nation's criminal justice system, including among other measures the elimination of double-jeopardy protection in some cases.

In "Justice For All," a white paper published on July 17, Home Secretary David Blunkett told the House of Commons that radical changes are needed that will favor the victim. The paper makes dozens of recommendations on each aspect of the criminal justice system, including victims' rights, trials, sentencing and incarceration.

"We will tighten up bail to limit the chance of offending," said Blunkett. "At trial we will rebalance the rules of evidence and trust magistrates, judges and juries to make decisions on all the relevant information. Protecting the public will remain our priority with the most serious violent and sexual offenders subject to new indeterminate sentences."

The strategy proposes that the 800-year-old double-jeopardy rule be eliminated in cases where "compelling new evidence" has been revealed. In such instances, an acquitted defendant can be tried a second time. Blunkett said that advances in DNA and forensic science mean more not-guilty verdicts being called into question. In cases where the change would apply, the Court of Appeal would be asked to quash the original acquittal, reported

The New York Times.

The government also intends to make hearsay evidence admissible and allow jurors to hear of suspects' previous crimes. Such an overhaul, said the paper, would include "making available to judges and juries information on previous convictions and conduct where it is relevant."

Two acquittals in recent high-profile cases revealed sloppy police work. One involved the 1993 killing of a black teenager, Stephen Lawrence, by white thugs, and the other the death in November 2000 of Damilola Taylor, a 10-year-old Nigerian girl.

Changing their tune on pot

Britain will relax its cannabis laws, downgrading pot from a Class B to a Class C drug as of next July, said Home Secretary David Blunkett.

"Cannabis is a potentially harmful drug and should remain illegal," he said. "It is not comparable with crack, heroin and Ecstasy."

The reclassification will give law enforcement the opportunity to focus on hard drugs and drug dealing, said Prime Minister Tony Blair. Police would retain the authority to make arrests for pot possession, but in most cases would simply issue a warning and confiscate the drug. Smoking marijuana outside of schools or in the presence of children

would still be prohibited.

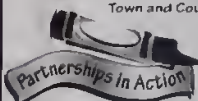
A study last year reported that 20 percent to 25 percent of adults in Britain smoke pot — approximately the same percentage as in Denmark, France, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain. Among other European Union nations, Spain and Italy no longer jail individuals caught with pot for personal use, and Portugal last year eliminated jail time for possession of small amounts of any illegal drug.

"It is critical that police can maintain public order," said Blunkett. "Where cannabis possession is linked to aggravated behavior that threatens public order, the police will retain the power of arrest."

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Just about a year ago, Police Chief Bill Berger of North Miami Beach, Fla., was eagerly anticipating a moment that was at least five years in the making: his installation as president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, which was due to take place at the IACP's annual meeting in late October in Toronto. Then came the events of last Sept. 11, which, while not dimming Berger's enthusiasm for becoming "chief of chiefs," certainly preordained a different tone, if not direction, for his term in office.

Berger recalls that when he took the helm of the IACP, a comment was made to the effect that it was a "bad time to be coming in as president." Were Berger a product of Brooklyn rather than the native Floridian that he is, his response would be an emphatic "fuhgedaboudit!" He insists that it's "the best time," giving him the opportunity to take on undaunted challenges, which he says he loves. As the IACP's first post-9/11 president, Berger has been a highly visible spokesman for law enforcement, a fixture of Congressional hearings and news interviews, as well as keeping up his involvement as a host of COPNET, the nationwide police-oriented radio program that he helped develop.

The "Blueprint 2001/2002" that Berger unveiled in his inauguration speech to the IACP is a testimony both to the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on policing in America as well as the extent to which other issues still command law enforcement's attention. Among the numerous initiatives outlined by Berger, fighting terrorism is clearly job-one, but his plans also included focuses on bias-based policing issues, seat-belt laws and drunken-driving enforcement, police education and training, ethics and professionalism, and enhancing the image and visibility of IACP. While anti-terrorism concerns color



many of these other issues, their mere presence in Berger's blueprint speaks to the fact that, Sept. 11 or no Sept. 11, life in policing goes on. The issues that were dominating the debate before last September haven't gone away.

Berger came to the North Miami Beach police after having already made a lightning-quick climb through the ranks of the Miami Police Department, where he was a captain by age 30 and served as commander of the homicide unit and head of the police academy. He is an unabashed technophile (his hero is Thomas Edison) with a zeal for marketing and communication, strengths that factor strongly in his innovation in the area of community policing. An avowed police futurist, he believes that many

of his peers wrongly dismiss technological advances in policing as mere "toys for the boys," yet he readily concedes that some supposed advances are, at best, misguided. For example, he says, many non-lethal weapons applications are examples of how industry is "not listening to law enforcement." From Berger's standpoint, it comes down to the public and private sectors working together, an approach he has tried to use to maximum advantage with both the North Miami Beach police and the IACP. His efforts have kept the NMBPD on the cutting edge of both community policing and technical innovation.

As a spokesman for American policing in the aftermath of Sept. 11, Berger has been unstinting in bestowing credit where credit is due (and seeking the same for policing), just as he has been emphatic in pointing to failings. He empathizes with homeland security director Tom Ridge, who he says is taken the correct (i.e., measured) approach to doing a difficult job in a crisis situation. On the other hand, interagency cooperation and communication remain a sore spot with Berger, who says he gets more useful information about what's going on from CNN and other news outlets than he does from the FBI and other federal agencies. He rails at the media for offering what he sees as its glorification of violence and its depiction of cops as lying, stealing, rule-breaking goons. Congress, too, takes a few licks from Berger for, among other things, its "oll-knowing" attitude that occasionally manifests itself in circus-like hearings that are more charade than inquiry.

Under Berger's leadership since 1989, the North Miami Beach Police Department has become a clear leader in modern, dynamic, problem-oriented community policing, with departments from across the country and around the world sending representatives to North Miami Beach to train and observe department operations. Still only in his 40s, with bachelor's and master's degrees already under his belt and a law degree almost completed, the sky would seem to be the limit for Berger, a local boy made good — very good.

A LEN interview with

Police Chief William B. Berger of North Miami Beach, Fla.

"Other law-enforcement groups... certainly play a role, but we've kind of emerged as a leader because I work hard at being a consensus maker."

LAW ENFORCEMENT NEWS: Your vantage point as president of the IACP gives you a world view on policing that not many have. From that perspective, how would you assess the changes in law enforcement since last September 11th?

BERGER: I don't think there will ever be another time in history that will have such an impact. I think you've got to go back to the old days for something similar — for our generation, it would be when President Kennedy was assassinated; for today's young generation, now you have 9/11. This had significant impact on law enforcement, as did the Kennedy assassination. I think we changed a lot of things. I think we look globally now. We're much more cautious as a nation. We're much more attuned to our communities. As you know, America has opened its doors and hearts to every visitor throughout the world — I think every country in the world probably has a resident here, and unfortunately, our kind nature has caused us the problems that took place on 9/11 by relaxing immigration and relaxing a lot of the restrictions that other countries are very tight about. I don't think that will ever happen again.

My biggest fear, though, is that like everything in law enforcement when a situation occurs, we go into a crisis-management situation, and we divert all our energies toward this. We're being told that we've got another baby boom that'll peak by 2005, and any time you've got a lot of young people in the 15 to 22-year-old age group, you're going to have increased crime.

Crime's starting to increase now. We had seven years, I guess, of declining crime rates and murder rates, and we're starting to see those increases. Last year, I think, was the first increase, although slight. I just feel that that trend will continue.

Unfortunately, with the way the media is, it plays to a very negative impact. Murder and violence and sexual battery and rape are not considered taboo in films — it's kind of glorified. And we're seeing an increase in gang membership, disassociation with the parent structure. Not that Ozzie and Harriet is the ultimate, but they were saying a tremendous amount of, you know, deadbeat dads or deadbeat parents that are not taking their responsibility serious enough. There are a lot of kids out there who are being exposed to violence and crime. I wish that I could say everything's going to turn out great, but on top of 9/11, our challenges in law enforcement are greater now, I think, than in any other period in this country.

One eye on the future

LEN: Do you think that the events of 9/11 and thereafter have altered the core mission of policing, however you choose to define that?

BERGER: We're very adaptive. I think the funding structure may change. You know, we have had the COP's programs since 1992, and we've enjoyed the benefits of those programs,

including the hiring grants that probably put about 60- to 70,000 additional officers on the streets. (The past administration kept saying 100,000, but that's not the case.) But still, I mean a significant number of officers were added to the rank and file. A lot of moneys were pumped into technology and crime prevention. Unfortunately, all these moneys are now going to be shifted toward homeland security, responding to bioterrorism, responding to threats like dirty bombs or other types of potential terrorist activity.

One other area that has me very concerned are the civil disturbances such as we've seen occurring in Seattle and D.C. Those are starting to grow, and some futurists — and I happen to be a graduate of Bill Tafoya's police futurist class, an exclusive small group — some futurists used to say, you know, would there be another civil war, or will there be racial problems? What I see is this group involved in the global protest is growing proportionately larger, but it's a combination of various groups. It's telling me that the next conflict — which, of course, we're always thrown in the middle of — will be the haves versus the have-nots. Whether it's the people protesting for environmental concerns, whether it's for economic concerns, or just flat out anarchist, even union participation, as we saw in Seattle, we've got a lot of people. And it's kind of unique because we've never had this combination before come together as a unified group. They have training camps in north Florida and other parts of the country where they learn how to break gauntlets and do mass demonstra-

“‘Training Day’ with Denzel Washington. . .[is] a piece of garbage as far as depicting police officers victimizing and brutalizing people, breaking the rules. Hollywood’s attitude seems to be ‘Let’s go ahead and pick on law enforcement; they can’t fire back.’ ”

tions. They come with their own gas masks. So that’s a major concern, and I think we’ve taken our eye off that.

Another area of major concern is domestic terrorism. You know, it wasn’t that long ago that Oklahoma City took place. There are other Timothy McVeighs in the world. From what I’ve been told, in the days after 9/11, some of the right-wing extremist groups basically applauded the attacks, and basically said that all that is a lot of Jews were killed. That’s a mentality that’s sickening, but it’s out there.

There’s also a challenge facing us, and it’s something that troubles me greatly, in terms of the depiction of law enforcement in the media. And it’s not just the news media, who don’t see the positive, but tend to dwell on the negative. It’s also the depictions of police officers in the movies and television. There’s this new series called “Shield,” and to me it is a bastardization. It’s wrong. Unfortunately, though, the public sees this, and they believe what they see on TV. What it depicts is rogue police officers, which according to this generally describes all of us, who go out and victimize people and break the laws and steal and cheat, and cheat on their wives and everything else. I’m appalled by that, because it’s not an accurate depiction. We set the very highest standards that we can, whether it’s psychological, medical, educational, physical fitness, and we try and pick the very best people that are out there, man or woman. Unfortunately, some do fall by the wayside, but at least we take care of our problems. Errant doctors and lawyers generally get slapped on the wrist and they move on with their profession. We try and deterify, or we fire, or we arrest. We’re the only profession that does that, and I would challenge anybody else to say that. But I’m real concerned about the image that’s being put out there. You’ve got “Training Day” with Denzel Washington, who should have probably won the Academy Award even before that — he’s a great actor. But it’s a piece of garbage as far as depicting police officers victimizing and brutalizing people, breaking the rules; that’s just not the norm. Hollywood’s attitude seems to be “Let’s go ahead and pick on law enforcement; they can’t fire back.”

The honeymoon is over

LEN: It seems to beg the question of whether a media “honeymoon” for policing that may have occurred following Sept. 11 was short lived....

BERGER: I believe it was. You know the firefighters are still there; they’re the greatest. I used to say that they’re the white hats and we’re the black hats. A firefighter goes into your home that’s on fire, puts the thing. By the time they finish with all the water damage, it’s completely destroyed, and people shake their hands and say “Thank you very much.” We come out of a domestic situation and we’re no-good SOB’s. It didn’t take long before those negative depictions started again. Probably our honeymoon period, as you called it, was probably right after the holiday season in December. People were really friendly and were more tolerant of our work during that time. Certainly they’ve been the victims of one of the most horrendous crimes ever, but I just think right after that it was like, boom, here it comes. I see it in the rhetoric of the Muslim community, and I see Reverend Sharpton doing his thing. It’s back again, and we have to deal with it.

LEN: Have their been specific ramifications of the September 11 attacks and its aftermath for the North Miami Beach department, in terms of things like additional fiscal burdens, staffing shortfalls, expansions or changes in your duties, and so forth.

BERGER: The answer is certainly yes right afterward, and probably for about two months. We spent money — almost all police departments did — on fortifying potential terrorist targets like utility plants, water plants, and so on. We had to spend overtime, we had to spend resources for new equipment, additional gas masks. Don’t forget that right after that, we got hit with the anthrax scares. We had letters being delivered on a regular basis, and we had to abandon our building twice. So, yes, we’ve had to expend resources, and we’re doing things differently now than before 9/11.

LEN: With all that’s being asked of policing since September in terms of expanded duties, looking at things from your vantage point as IACP president, how would you assess the overall state of preparedness in law enforcement at this time?

BERGER: Well, we still don’t get a lot of information. We have been working — and I know I can speak personally — with the director of the FBI, Robert Mueller. I’m convinced that he is really attempting to break the wall of silence — meaning that gap that we have between federal, state and local agencies — but we

still get very little information. I learn more from private-sector experts, and even good old CNN — they tell me everything! If I want to find out what the alert of the day is, I contact CNN or Fox or MSNBC. So it’s still a major problem, not getting a lot of information. There’s got to be stuff going on out there; I just can’t believe that it’s non-existent. And the trust factor has to be there, period. There’s been a lot of talk, but I don’t see as much action as I would wish. And it’s a little frustrating, as many chiefs have expressed to me.

LEN: In your conversations with fellow chiefs, do you find that the level of intelligence sharing varies from place to place or from department to department based on different factors?

BERGER: Certainly. If you have a special agent in charge with whom you have a special relationship, that helps communication. I’m very fortunate down in Miami; I’ve got a great one, Hector Pesquera. But I can tell you that even Hector doesn’t get a lot of information, so it’s not being shared — if there is such information. So I guess the downside is, our intelligence gathering and dissemination needs to get better.

Somebody asked me, what about the Super Bowl, what about the Olympics, are we going to have problems. And I said, no, we’re not. Now, of course, I’m telling you that after the fact, so I know they were both successful ventures. But I could say that because we do great in law enforcement, whether it’s federal, state or local, when we can pre-plan, when we’re set, when we know the event. Even the Atlanta bombing was small. Certainly a woman was killed, and that was unfortunate, but it wasn’t a catastrophic situation. A white supremacist crazy, the anti-abortion guy Eric Rudolph, appears to be the offender in that

American philosophy. Now we’ve got these people who are willing to kill themselves, and young women who are willing to kill themselves for fanaticism, saying they’ll be in a better land. Harry Houdini said he’d come back and tell us about it. Well, I’ve got news for you: He ain’t back. So I only know this life, and I certainly am very reverent of God and believe in God, but you know what? Right now is all I’ve got. So it’s really absurd; I mean, this is crazy stuff.

LEN: Almost from the day it was created, the Homeland Security office has taken a number of shots in the press and from other quarters over a variety of issues. One common theme has seemed to be the idea that this is an agency in search of a mission. With the prospect that the Homeland Security office may yet become a Cabinet department, would you find the criticisms to be valid?

BERGER: Well, consider the fact that it didn’t exist before 9/11, and it was put together pretty abruptly in a crisis situation. So I think the approach that Governor Ridge is taking is the correct one. He’s been meeting with all the entities, both in the public and private sectors, and attempting to digest and become a quick study. Luckily, he’s had time to do it. What I mean is that other than 9/11, thank God we haven’t had another attack like that. It’s given him some breathing room. I think the problem is that there are so many federal entities and so many different groups, and the accountability in the federal system really needs to be put back on track again. With too many groups and too many responsibilities, everybody looks and points fingers and says, “No, that’s not my job, that’s your job.” I think the streamlining is going to be his biggest hurdle. As for most of the criticisms, let’s keep in

“We still get very little information [from federal agencies]. I learn more from private-sector experts. If I want to find out what the alert of the day is, I contact CNN.”

You know, Israel’s probably the most security-conscious country in the world, and you still every day pick up a newspaper and read about a suicide bomber killing people. So if there’s a will, there’s a way, and if people are willing to kill themselves, it would be virtually impossible for us to stop that. But we do a great job when we do everything we can do to plan for something. Our problem is the day-to-day stuff. Will there be another attack against this nation? Where will it be? You know, we’ve got threats on banks, threats on shopping malls, threats on bridges. What will be the next threat, and will we be able to beat them? You can’t be everywhere at all times. So certainly our vulnerability will be something that we just can’t control.

Room for improvement

LEN: Have the chiefs you’ve spoken to come up with any kind of a wish list of things that they believe can be done to improve the intelligence-sharing problems?

BERGER: It’s certainly technology, and it’s the capability to have the intelligence. We meet with the FBI director, who has created an advisory committee. We meet with Governor [Tom] Ridge and his folks at Homeland Security, and the IACP’s relationship with Homeland Security is very, very strong. But we’re just not getting the information — and the frustrating thing is, I don’t know if there is any, you know what I mean? We watch TV and the movies and I think we kind of assume that the FBI is everywhere and into everything, and is all knowledgeable. But I don’t think that’s the case. At least that’s what I’m starting to believe now. Certainly they have leads. But terrorism is an enemy that is quite unique. The only other recent period in our country that you saw this was in the ‘60s. It kind of amazes me how the Black Panthers are given some reverence now. They were basically terrorists and murderers, but we talk in terms of them being a group that tried to bring their causes to the people. Well, so were the Hell’s Angels, but that doesn’t mean they were good people. If you look back then, we had the possibility, especially in California and the West, of having these armed terrorist groups among us in our communities. But we were able to apprehend them and put them in jail.

What’s kind of unique about these new terrorists is, first, they come from a different land. And we’ve never faced an enemy that’s willing to kill themselves. Certainly what we saw with the crashing into of the buildings, it’s just not a Western standard. We don’t accept that. After all, we still talk about the Japanese kamikaze fighter pilots. That was so strange and so bizarre to

mind that it’s easy to throw rocks; it’s a lot harder to pick them up and build.

LEN: Another widely anticipated change since last September has been a refocusing of the FBI’s mission, and a move to divest itself of some of its traditional responsibilities, not least of these being bank robbery investigations. How do you view this change on the part of the FBI?

BERGER: Well, initially some of my fellow chiefs felt — and I know PERF came out with a strong opinion on this — that the FBI should be out of bank robberies. I happened to be a bank-robbery investigator in my days in Miami, and was the commander of the unit for a while, so I have a different perspective, a workman’s perspective. Certainly, the note-passer and generally the local bank robber can be handled by locals law enforcement. That doesn’t concern me, and those should probably be released to locals. But the armed individual, the group, those that could travel state to state — especially up in New England, where in 45 minutes, you can be in two different states. In Florida, California or Texas, it’s a much bigger area, but we don’t exchange information from county to county, or city to city. The FBI can do that. That’s the great benefit of the bureau, their intelligence gathering on bank robberies. They can work with us, they can notify us, and they can do a master file. They can go ahead and find out not only “Did we capture this bank robber?” but “Were we also able to solve five other bank robberies?” We can’t from here — chances are that’s going to be the only case that’s filed. And again, federal crimes are much more stringent than local crimes, and bank robbers are dangerous people, especially those that are armed, and they need the maximum time in the penitentiary system, not a slap on the wrist where they’re out the next day because of crowding. I’ve talked to Director Mueller and I cautioned him about pulling out completely. I said it should probably be just a lessening of just having to handle all bank robberies.

One thing that I’d heard in talking to somebody from USA Today had to do with the FBI getting out of narcotics. Well, the DEA does a good job in narcotics. Certainly there may be a nexus with political corruption or something like that and you’d need the bureau to get involved, or possibly knowing that certain groups are using drug proceeds to fund terrorism. Then the bureau needs to be there. But generally drugs are an area that I think even on mid-level need to be handled by DEA. They do it very well.

Continued on Page 10

LEN interview: IACP president Bill Berger

Continued from Page 9

LEN: It seems ironic that the FBI is looking to get out of drug enforcement, given that they didn't want to be involved in the in the first place; it was sort of forced on them back in the '80s.

BERGER: And, of course, the last administration wanted to federalize everything. I was waiting for federal shoplifting. That was the only thing left. If you remember what they did with carjacking, well, carjacking's a local crime. To federalize that is insane. But they did it. How many cases have actually been investigated by the bureau? Probably none, but they were like, yeah, let's do that.

May I see your papers, please?

LEN: Another change that's in the wind is in the area of immigration enforcement. Certainly South Florida has always been a melting pot, and now the State of Florida is moving toward authorizing local police to make arrests for visa violations and other offenses. Do you see this as a good move for local police in Florida?

BERGER: Yes, from the standpoint that Tim Moore, the director of the FBI, is doing the most prudent assessment of this. Initially, we have a 35 person task force that will be strategically assigned to the problems, dealing mainly with the folks that are a potential danger and threat to this country. For example, they made some arrests of a couple of former military generals that are accused of atrocities in Haiti and Central America. These people were basically allowed to live in this country without any fear of apprehension. Well, those days are gone. The members of the task force will be experts in immigration law to make sure that the system doesn't clog these people up. I think eventually that task force will grow in number. I think everybody's looking to Florida as the first test case. As you know, Justice has approached IACP, as they have other law-enforcement groups, for their input on deputizing everyone, or allowing us to go ahead and enforce civil writs, basically persons that we put in the computer, saying it's a violation, so you can pick them up. We've been against that. We want felony warrants, one, for the liability, and two, so that God forbid if we have to use some kind of bodily force or potentially deadly force, we're going to be in the right, because about the only thing that protects us men and women on the line is that I-904 designation. Some of these people have been here 20 years, and they're not going to want to leave. I think they're going to bodily resist. We saw what happened with the Elian Gonzalez situation here — that become a turmoil, and that was a little boy. You start deporting certain family members that have been here a long time and I think we're once again going to be the targets of frustration based on the federal plan.

LEN: Since you became chief in 1989, you've been very aggressive in moving the North Miami Beach police along the track of community-based and problem-oriented policing. How do you see it possible move into the area of immigration enforcement meshing with the community orientation of your department? Is there a compatibility there, or are the two notions fundamentally at odds?

BERGER: I've heard this discussion more so than ever before, that immigration investigation and enforcement is going to drive a wedge into community policing. I tend to disagree. Certainly, it's not like you were embraced by everyone; we're still seen as the police. And certainly in some of these countries where I have visited, the police — you know, they talk about police respect and whatever — we still are held in high regard. I know that for a fact. So I just think that if we do it prudently, if we arrest those individuals that are a threat to this country, or individuals that are criminals — you know, we have a lot of folks that come here to commit crimes — if we do it that way, it should be all right. But not if we just round up folks that, say, are migrant workers or something like that — that's not going to be our function. I think this country needs to solidify the rules and get our act together. When I go into foreign countries, I have to sign an affidavit as to where I'm going to be. And frankly, I'm concerned that if I'm not there, somebody's going to come see me. They don't have that fear here. We need to protect our borders, and that goes for everyone. We need to make sure that the men and women who are coming to this country are coming for the right reason. Certainly economics is a big one; I'll be the first to tell you that. But on the other hand, what happens is our resources are drained. Look at what happened recently in France — the national election issue was not about anything but unchecked immigration. It's draining the country of France, and unchecked immigration is draining this country. Certainly we've got families and emotions involved, but when is it too much? Is it to the point where we say we're actually hurting ourselves? We can't take care of our own people.

Claims to fame

LEN: Various sources that we've run across have pointed to the success of community policing efforts in North Miami Beach. 'Would you say that the community policing philosophy has been a cornerstone of your tenure as chief?

BERGER: Yes and no. I was very fortunate. I worked with Bob Trojanowicz, who is known as the father of American community policing. I was very, very fortunate. He used to call me the program chief. I've had a lot of programs we developed here. I guess my claim to fame is that I'm a kind of marketer. I market this police department and everything we do, and I kind of include community policing as part of that marketing plan. We survey the communities, which is a very integral part of the plan. We find out what their needs are. We have town meetings. We meet our customers' demand, and our customers are the citizens. We constantly do that.

"[A] constant infusion of new technology is something that most chiefs and most organizations won't let happen. They'll say, 'Oh, what do they want for this?' Well, they don't want anything. The private sector and the public sector need to work together."

LEN: We've seen references in which you say your claim to fame is technology...

BERGER: We've been a Beta site. I've allowed companies, to come to North Miami Beach, and we have tested their products. I had two come yesterday to test their restraint system. I love inventors; my hero is Thomas Edison. He was a brilliant, brilliant man. As you know, he had thousands of patents. We wouldn't have movies if it wasn't for him, we wouldn't have the voice recorder. The guy was a genius. I go to his house in Fort Myers at least once a year on a pilgrimage. It's such a great thing. I have his books behind me. But what I'm saying is, this constant infusion of new technology is something that most chiefs and most organizations won't let happen. They'll say, "Oh, what do they want for this?" Well, they don't want anything. The private sector and the public sector need to work together. It just kills me when I see these non-lethal force applications. It shows they're not listening to law enforcement. The glue gun is useless! No police officer is going to spend 45 minutes with baby oil to take this stuff off. The net gun — if it saves a life, fine, but it's crazy. And the bean-bag gun has killed people, but they still say that's an alternative. Well, wait a second! What's the alternative? I don't want it, but I do know that you constantly have to work at it, and define and get the information out.

I've been very open-minded, and I've been very futuristic. I truly believe that you've got to be technologically competent, and that's my claim to fame. I've incorporated that with community policing. We have investigators who do community policing, which is unheard of. I'm willing to try things that other people turn down. We were one of the very first to deploy Jet Skis. They're now commonplace, but when we first did this, other agencies said, "Oh, these are toys, don't let this happen." I was willing to try that, and it's been great. If people are happy in doing what they do, they're going to do it better. And if they're not, if they're miserable, if it's the same old routine and they're not challenged, they're not going to do a good job. You have to challenge people.

Unlisted numbers

LEN: To what extent would you say that community policing has helped drive down the crime rate in North Miami Beach?

BERGER: I think that because we do market, because we make people feel safe in our community, and we are committed to doing various programs, I think it has had a significant effect. But we've experienced crime rates now because our community's changed. In 1990, we had 35,000 people, and as of 2000 we have 42,000 people. With illegal immigration, the number is probably closer to 50,000. So the one area that's being missed in law enforcement, and not being measured because we are tied into this antiquated UCR system that counts number of reported crimes, is calls for service. That's what should be reported. We've had significant increases in calls for service. Our domestic situations are up, which equates to violent confrontations with family members or police. Assaults on law enforcement officers are way up. We're not measuring correctly what we do, and we'd better change that. We need to move forward. The UCR was great, but it was created in the 1930s. Calls for service, which measures your ability to perform, is a quantity that's not being correctly measured.

LEN: Is there a hidden danger that comes with using a measure like calls for service? We read all the time about police departments being taken to task in the press because it took a few seconds longer to respond this year than it did the year before. It seems people can spin the numbers any way they want, and eventually somebody will be called to account for it.

BERGER: Absolutely. And unfortunately, as you know, most criminal offenses are already over and done with; it's seldom that you get the crime in progress. On TV, of course, we're right there and within an hour we've solved the big murder, but it doesn't work that way. It's sometimes a very long, tedious effort. We're competing against the media interpretation of what we should do. But you take what Bill Bratton did in New York with Compstat. It was using crime analysis to a magnitude that no one had ever done it before. We've done crime analysis here for years, but I'm a small city. We do what we do, and then you move your resources to where you need to be. That's what I love about the COPS program too; it allowed us the capability to have technological resources we couldn't get, the computers, the analysis and that kind of stuff.

LEN: Do you support the re-authorization of the COPS office?

BERGER: Absolutely. It was the best thing since the old LEAA days during the Carter administration. And the reason why I like it is the fact that we could directly request funding from my city and not have to go through different levels of government. Recently Senators Hillary Clinton and Charles Schumer tried to pass a bill that said only the thousand largest cities would be entitled to funding and reimbursement. I was adamantly opposed to that because as head of IACP I represent 9,000 agencies, not 1,000. Of course, the major-city chiefs thought that was great. Well, it certainly is great for them, but not for me, and not for law enforcement in general.

LEN: What would you identify as currently being the top crime issues confronting you, notwithstanding our earlier discussions of terrorism and homeland security?

BERGER: Our biggest thing is drugs, and as you know, Ecstasy has become the drug of this year in record numbers. And then there's domestic violence situations. My community has started to escalate. This used to be somewhat of a retirement community with a demographic age of 59, and now it's under 40. It's been a pretty significant shift in the past decade.

LEN: Have you had occasion to analyze the demographics of the domestic violence problem?

BERGER: Yes. Again, it's younger people, with kids. The demographics have changed; we now have a lot of folks from the Caribbean area. We have people that are new arrivals to this country. Again, it's a culture difference, too. In the Haitian community, corporal punishment is considered acceptable; in this country, of course, it's not. So those are the types of situations we have. But, you know, we're only 4½ square miles, but we've got 42,000 people. There's a lot of people jammed into a small area.

LEN: Your formative years in policing were spent in Miami, and as I'm sure you don't need to be reminded, the Miami P.D. has had plenty of problems over the past 15 to 20 years in terms of police corruption and other forms of criminality in uniform. Some say the problem stems from drugs; some say it stems from inadequate applicant screening or things like that. How have you managed to keep the house clean in North Miami Beach?

BERGER: The difference really is numbers. I have 105 sworn; there are 1,100 in Miami. I know everyone's name here. When

"Even with Congress, let's just say they tend to be all-knowing; they don't ask the experts. In this respect, we're the experts, meaning law enforcement. They never ask us. I go and I testify, and it's almost a charade. . . a circus atmosphere."

we've got to fill positions, we fill two or three, unlike Miami, where they have to fill hundreds. You can spend more time on your applicants here. We require a two year degree here; Miami doesn't. Our reputation is such that we can turn a lot of people down, and we only pick the cream of the cream. I'm not saying Miami didn't, and I'm very proud of my old department, don't get me wrong. But unfortunately, we went from 567 sworn back before the 1980 riots, and then all of a sudden the city fathers said, hire 1,100 and make sure that 80 percent are from within the city of Miami — which is only a small population about 380,000. Dade County has 2 million, but they said keep it exclusively in Miami. So what happened is, in order to meet the numbers, because there was this fear that they wouldn't have this funding next year, they decided to open the doors, turn the other way, keep their fingers crossed and hopefully these people would do okay. But when you've got that many people, it's tough. I mean, New York has had it's problems, Cincinnati's had problems, Seattle's had problems. In the bigger cities you're depending on a lot of folks to do the job, and if you put pressure on them to get the numbers up, sometimes they're gonna take shortcuts — and shortcuts come back to haunt you.

The IACP reinvented

LEN: Looking back over your term as the IACP's president, how have the events of Sept. 11 changed the organizational role of the IACP? Is more demanded of the group now?

BERGER: Yes. But you know, when I became president, someone said, "Oh, what a bad time to be coming in as president," and I said absolutely not. It's the best time. Because the challenges are there, and I love challenges. The FBI is coming to us now, more so than ever before; so is Homeland Security, so are other federal agencies more so than ever before. The IACP is a leader, certainly. I'm also a member of PERF, and a member of some of the other law-enforcement groups. They certainly play a role, but we've kind of emerged as a leader because I work hard at being a consensus maker. I don't look at IACP like we're the one and only; not at all. I've met with Steve Young, the president of the FOP, that's the first time that's happened.

I think the key area, to me, is communications. That's what my legacy will be. From the beginning, I was pretty ambitious; there were a lot of things I said I wanted to do. But as I complete those, I think the No. 1 focus has been communications. I have opened up both internally and externally. I've probably been quoted in more newspapers and news shows in this country than any IACP president in the last five years. Not that those presidents didn't do a great job. It's just that now, the focus is on IACP. I said I wanted people to come to IACP first, and if we didn't know the answer, we would direct them to the agency that did. And that's been very successful. I think the "Big Blue" effort is probably my most successful program because the passion is shared by all the vice presidents. I'm very fortunate because I've got some really top-notch people who are the vice presidents of IACP and understand how important that is.

LEN: A random sampling of reports on the IACP Web site gives one the distinct impression that this year's crop of IACP vice presidents and division heads seems to be far more involved in testifying, lobbying and all-around political activism than at any other time in recent memory. Is this in fact the case?

BERGER: Yes, and that was an initiative I had. We needed to become more tied in to the political entities, and we've been very successful. [Did Saybrook, Conn., police chief Eddie Mosca, who's my chairperson of the Legislative Committee, and Gene Voegtlin, who's our staff person, those guys are terrific. I've been very aggressive in this area to try and educate the folks in Washington as to who we are and what we're about. That's important because you'll see somebody testifying on behalf of law enforcement, and sometimes his or her ideas are strictly related to their individual incident or department, whereas ours are much more global in nature. So that was certainly a priority. I made it one of the initiatives for incoming president [Richmond, Calif., chief] Joe Samuels, but it's been shared by all the vice presidents. I've got some really good people who understand that that's its important IACP be considered the leader of law enforcement.

LEN: Was there anything in your own experience as you moved

up the vice-presidential ladder that might have prompted you to diversify the public face of IACP by getting the VP's more involved?

BERGER: Again, I think it goes back to my feeling about marketing, that you're only as good as people know who you are. I love to market. I'm involved in credit unions; I'm now head of a very large one down here in Miami, with hundreds of millions of dollars. And you know, credit unions are only successful if you get the word out to the membership. It's the same thing with IACP. It's about being respected as well as being known. That's what I've wanted to focus on this year, to get the word out about who and what we are. We've put out information cards and pictures and sent them to every media outlet. We have aggressively marketed the IACP. I guess my frustration came when I was president of the Florida chiefs because we'd go up to Tallahassee, which is at the other end of Florida, and they'd say, "Oh, very nice to meet you; see you later." That really upset me because we were not being given the respect or the recognition as the law enforcement experts that we were. We'd have criminal justice initiatives being passed that were ill-conceived knee-jerk reactions without any input from us whatsoever.

Even with Congress, let's just say they tend to be all-knowing; they don't ask the experts. In this respect, we're the experts, meaning law enforcement. They never ask us. I go and I testify, and it's almost a charade. Certainly there's good individual people, but it's such a circus atmosphere there. I was asked to testify on the FBI and the relationship we had, and it was definitely slanted toward "let's attack the bureau." I refused to do that, so all of a sudden the house started cleaning out — "He's not saying what we want to hear!" As I said to Governor Ridge, God forbid, if there was an anthrax or some type of biological disaster, it's comforting to know that all the elected officials are protected, and that when all the rest of us are dead, they'll be able to run the country. My big concern is that the men and women that have to respond to these things should be protected. They are the true first responders. What happens in Washington, D.C. is an isolated package; it's totally separate. Good generals, good leaders always take care of the troops first, and themselves last. It seems like they get their priorities a little screwed up.

9/11 history lessons:

NYC, Arlington hear it from consultants

Continued from Page 1

many respects, it suffered from failures of leadership and coordination and inadequate planning and training.

The 88-page draft report by McKinsey & Company, a copy of which was obtained by The New York Times, based its findings in part on interviews with more than 100 commanders and officers, as well as a survey of 700 members of the department of varying rank. The consultants also reviewed documents, including internal reports and radio transmissions.

About 25 percent of officers questioned said they were unsatisfied with their supervision that day. In addition, 38 percent of officers who went to lower Manhattan said they were unsure of who they were to report to.

The report, while frank in its criticisms of department shortfalls, nonetheless pointed to the heroism and sacrifice of many NYPD officers, including the 23 who gave their lives, and noted that no one could have anticipated the events of Sept. 11. Moreover, the report says, even the most serious failings on the day of the terrorist attacks did not affect what many viewed as the primary job of the police that day — evacuating the World Trade Center and its environs, thus saving countless lives.

The department performed effectively in 10 of what the report described as 16 critical tasks. In addition to rescuing victims and evacuating the city below Canal Street, these included traf-

fic management and the protection of sensitive locations around the city. Although some officials relied too heavily on cellphones which were knocked out after the attack, the police radio system performed well, the study said.

Where the department's response fell short, the report stated, was with regard to assessing and preventing further attacks, assessing the potential of

Arlington County, Va.'s police, firefighters and paramedics for their response during the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon, the jurisdiction's emergency communication system came in for some harsh criticism in a report released in July.

According to the federally-financed analysis, police and fire radio channels became saturated, rendering hand-held

U.S. police agencies have expanded their learning horizons to the Middle East, traveling to Israel recently to learn counterterrorism techniques from that country's law enforcement personnel, who have long dealt with suicide bombings and other terrorist acts.

"It's an opportunity of a lifetime to be able to see how Israeli police do their work," said Worth County, Ga., Sher-

They were also taught how to identify suspicious people who might already be inside.

"We learned enough during our trip to do some preplanning here, so we'll be prepared," said sheriff's deputy Mark Seibel, who was one of three explosives and arson experts who went for the training. The others were deputy Heidi Clark and the LAPD's Ralph Morten. "We won't have to backpedal or find out what to do if this happens."

Morten, a 24-year veteran, organized the mission and has been following the suicide bombings since Sept. 11. The LAPD's bomb squad, he said, handled 1,000 more suspicious package or bomb threat calls in 2001 than it did the previous year. By comparison, the Tel Aviv bomb squad in 2001 handled 56,000 calls, he noted.

"We all have to take a very proactive stance toward interdicting bombers," Morten told The Associated Press. "Notice them early, keep them outside and save lives, that's what the Israelis told us."

The NYPD also sent five investigators to Israel to attend a symposium on suicide bombing. Their trip coincided with an incident in which a terrorist killed himself and an Israeli during a suicide bombing in May.

The officers, Kelly told The AP, would "be gleaning information about the challenges that Israeli police face and then they'll come back and they'll help us train our trainers."

"It is just unconscionable in a time of crisis that the communications devices you count on every day suddenly can't be counted on."

hazardous materials at the Twin Towers, and underutilizing the department's command center at 1 Police Plaza, thwarting the effective deployment of officers.

The consulting firm offers numerous recommendations for improving police response to similar events in the future, including directing officers to staging areas rather than swarming the disaster site; conducting more frequent and expansive emergency drills; holding back reserve officers in the event of a secondary attack, and improving coordination with other agencies, including the Fire Department and federal authorities.

Failure to communicate

While high marks were given to

radios useless. At the same time, cellphones proved unreliable. Said Grant Peterson, a project director for Titan Systems Corp., which conducted the study: "It is just unconscionable in a time of crisis that the communications devices you count on every day suddenly can't be counted on. This is a lesson that has been taught, but it has not been learned."

Among the 235 recommendations made by the study is that police and firefighters be given priority on cellular phone systems during emergencies. Also, radios issued to emergency personnel should be able to operate on several frequencies.

Wakeup call

The NYPD and a number of other

iff Freddy Tompkins. "Back home we took so much for granted but, since 9/11, everyone has really woken up."

Eleven officers from law enforcement agencies in Georgia took part in a two-week study tour to learn Israeli methods. Police and sheriffs from the state have visited Israel for the past 10 years as part of the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange Program.

Three officers from the Los Angeles Police Department and county Sheriff's Department visited a Jerusalem mall three times with Israeli security forces to observe how their counterparts identify suspicious people or vehicles, and keep them from entering the mall and other confined areas, such as amusement parks and movie theaters.

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Bouza:

Wake up — the honeymoon's almost over

By Anthony V. Bouza

Maybe I really am Chicken Little or a common scold, but I think the unexpected and wholly undesired street crime and violence honeymoon of the late 1990s and early 21st century is about to end. And, from all accounts, it is clear that police departments across the nation are in trouble — and in denial.

In the first instance, the demographics of the "at-risk male population" are, after a respite, turning against the recent trend, and the underlying problems of poverty racism and economic exclusion have been neither ameliorated nor addressed. Just look at the 2000 census.

In the second place, read the papers. Los Angeles, Miami, New York and points east, west, north and south are not only untouched by reform but appear oblivious to the dangers looming ahead. They confront the future with inspiring bromides about "just a few bad apples." Sure.

Policing faces an unseen crisis, approaching as a stealth wave of violence, to be delivered by an underclass that boils and heaves with distress. The totally unforeseen blessing of the recent decline in violence is going to end — and soon. What then?

The problems beset every agency, yet the prevailing mood is smug complacency *cum* self-congratulation. It will all look very different as a tide of violence envelops us.

I've been hearing police chiefs extol the magic of their programs for many years, but I've never

seen a real evaluation of their performance. What might it look like? Who might be a model and why?

The factors can be listed:

Economies: How much of the overtime costs include papering over large public events and gatherings with blue? Intelligent use of plainclothes officers would be more effective in policing such rowdiness as we've seen in parades or labor disputes, and would require far fewer cops. Overtime is hard to control in arrest situations, but it is

injure any agency when there's little or no evidence of supervisors' participation in correcting the abuses? The code of silence is alive, well and demonstrable in case after case, all over the country.

Consolidation: The number of precincts/stations should be reduced to logical boundaries. This affords opportunities for upgrading a usually decaying physical plant that is unworthy of cops, as well as returning some properties to the tax rolls. Citizens would howl — they love their local sta-

"The unforeseen blessing of the recent decline in violence is going to end — and soon — yet the prevailing mood is smug complacency *cum* self-congratulation. It will all look very different as a tide of violence envelops us."

possible, and the waste in such operations as narcotics enforcement is profligate.

Litigation: Huge settlements and awards (actual and potential) are not only preventable — through tougher managerial controls — but ought to be shifted onto the offending officers who misbehave. These events are usually rooted in racism, suggest a department that is out of control, reflect badly on supervisors and trainers, and constitute a hidden tax on every citizen. Someday somebody's going to get elected on this issue. The fur will fly.

Freezing promotions: The fiscal debacle of 1975 led to the layoffs of thousands of young cops in New York City, while the upper ranks wallowed in uninterrupted comfort. The Abner Louima case served as a stark warning that the brutal cops involved had nothing to fear from supervisory intervention. Now would shrinking the officer corps

— but the fact is that the typical precinct building offers precious few services and soaks up personnel in unproductive tasks.

Consolidation would harmonize geographic neighborhoods, bring real meaning to community policing and citizen involvement, and still provide commanders with the means for assessing accountability and performance.

Such stations would host all sorts of community meetings and events. Resistance is grounded in objections to real interaction with the people served. Such a drastic reform would take years, perhaps as many as five or more, but the process could be tracked. And those precinct personnel should be lower paid civilians, not sworn officers.

Cops should work eight-hour days, five-day weeks and rotate tours no more often than every 30 days. This truly radical idea would provide

about 10 percent to 15 percent additional coverage without cost or additional hires. The notion of four 10-hour tours should be seen as nothing less than a betrayal of the public's interest, and all two-officer patrols as featherbedding. You have to hire about six cops to fill a seat in a radio car 24-7, and it costs of \$100K a year each. A mix of one- and two-person cars would, for example, enable the NYPD to respond to 17 9-1-1 calls, instead of 10, if the mix were 14 one-person cars and three two-person cars. Do the math, something they conveniently forgot all about in the previous crisis.

It is neither generally known nor widely circulated that the police in New York and elsewhere have abandoned, largely due to political pressures, the really aggressive, legal anti-crime tactics that were perfected in the '60s and '70s. These tactics include:

Decoys, where cops are disguised as victims and become the targets of muggers. Such an approach would be invaluable in the interdiction of devastating muggings, rapes, carjackings and the like. Decoys were abandoned because of the bogus charge that they constituted entrapment.

Stings, where an operation, such as a storefront, is set up by the police to entice burglars to sell their loot for cash, with no questions asked. The subjects would be filmed and registered and, after about a two- or three-month period, rounded up and charged with receiving stolen property. This practice fell into disuse over the misapprehension that it proved an irresistible temptation to hurglarize.

Stakeouts, where analyses of armed robberies led to the stationing of trained cops to intercept these criminals at the scene. These were relegated to the historical scrap heap following a mayoral election in Detroit in the early 1970s, in which the winner promised to erase the unit on the charge that the officers were acting as judge, jury and executioner because so many of the encounters led to gun battles. The rest of America followed suit over the following years.

Let's not overlook the fact that each of these approaches was free of the taint of racial profiling, since in every case the contact was initiated by the offender. And, while we're visiting the '60s, why not a reprise of the President's Commission on Crime? Isn't it time we had another look at the issues?

The only area of enforcement where there is common agreement on the need for aggressive, undercover, proactive approaches continues to be with regard to drugs, although such cases as the shooting death of Patrick Donsmond in New York will surely bring this practice into question, particularly by the minority community. The colossal irony is that police activism is at a 30-year low, precisely at the moment that chiefs trumpet their programs as models of aggressiveness.

If police response has turned flaccid, how then are we to account for the steep declines in street crime over the past decade?

First, let's acknowledge that crime has dropped even in places where the chief is comatose and the force somnolent. You can be sure the savants commanding our police will trot out complex sociological rationalizations when the demographics deliver a tsunami of crime soon.

Continued on Page 14

Weaver, Ulrich:

Mr. Magoo vs. the terrorists

By Charlie Weaver and Robert Ulrich

About two months before he spearheaded the most deadly domestic terrorist attack in United States history Mohammed Atta should have been in police custody. On July 5, 2001, Atta was stopped in Palm Beach County, Fla., for a traffic violation. The incident was handled as a routine matter and Atta was released. Yet, in neighboring Broward County there was an outstanding bench warrant for Atta for failure to appear in court on an invalid license charge.

Atta remained free because police in Palm County weren't able to access the records of their counterparts in Broward County. The simple, horrible truth is this: Atta wasn't detained because the CIA, FBI, INS and Florida law-enforcement agencies didn't have the technology to share information. They still don't. Much of our homeland's insecurity comes down to this. America's law-enforcement community has an inventory management problem. Target Corporation has better information systems to track the socks at its 1,028 stores than law-enforcement agencies have for tracking criminals and potential terrorists.

The Florida information breakdown is symptomatic of what occurs in every police department throughout the country. Police and sheriffs often lack the technology to share information with other law-enforcement agencies within their state, with other states or with federal agencies. Courts often don't have complete records when they sentence criminals. Consequently, criminals are able to move freely throughout our country.

Unless all law-enforcement agencies — from the smallest county sheriff's office to the FBI — have the means to share information, homeland

security will remain at risk.

Atta is not an isolated example. The CIA tracked two al Qaeda operatives who were also part of the Sept. 11 attack as they entered the United States. The CIA, though, did not let the FBI know the al Qaeda soldiers were in the country. The two lived openly, listing their address and phone in a local phone book, obtaining drivers licenses, Social Security cards, credit cards, and opening bank accounts in their own names. One of the terrorists was even stopped by an Oklahoma state trooper prior to Sept. 11 for speeding but was released with a ticket when a computer check came back clean.

The FBI insists that had they known about these two terrorists, they may have been able to tie all 19 hijackers together, potentially preventing the Sept. 11 attacks.

According to Senator Evan Bayh, a member of the Intelligence Committee, "I really do think we need a thorough, top-to-bottom reorganization improvement of our ability to collect information, both internationally and domestically. If we don't do that, then we're really not going to be in as good a position to protect America, regardless of whoever is heading these agencies."

Reorganizing the federal government alone won't work. We need to restructure business practices, adopt common technology and language and change how information is collected and shared at every level, from the FBI, to the states, to the cities and counties.

And while much of our nation's attention is focused on stopping foreign terrorists, homeland security also should protect us from the criminals in our own communities. Every day in the news there are stories about criminals who manage to

elude capture for years.

There is a solution. A unique criminal justice information system is now being constructed and tested in Minnesota. It could be the nationwide model for enhancing public safety and our country's homeland security efforts. Called CrMNet, the system is a secure Intranet that will connect together the state's 1,100 law-enforcement organizations and the information they have. It is the only system in the country that will give law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, probation and correction officials current and complete criminal history information on suspects and criminals throughout Minnesota — from the state down to the county and city levels.

The Minnesota business community has partnered with law enforcement to support legislative funding for CrMNet because the private sector has the expertise and resources to provide assistance. We have a stake in safe communities for our employees and customers, and we have a responsibility to invest in our communities.

The President and Congress are on the right track with improving the nation's inventory management problem by improving collaboration and information-sharing to better track terrorist and criminal activities. But we won't approach the type of safety this nation deserves until tracking terrorists and criminals is as effective as tracking inventory at a Target store. We need to know exactly where they are.

(Charlie Weaver is Minnesota's commissioner of public safety and director of homeland security. Robert Ulrich is CEO of Target Corp. Their commentary is reprinted from *The Washington Times*.)

Note to Readers:

The opinions expressed on the Forum page are those of the contributing writer or cartoonist, or of the original source newspaper, and do not represent an official position of Law Enforcement News.

Readers are invited to voice their opinions on topical issues, in the form of letters or full-length commentaries. Please send all materials to the editor.

Missouri troopers learn when to hold, when to fold — and how to cheat

Continued from Page 1

officers were given on-the-job training once they were assigned to the riverboats, said Baker.

At the school, students study Missouri's gambling statutes and regulations, but the rest of the time is spent learning the rules of games by playing them. They also learn about the basic technology of the machines and the surveillance equipment. A surveillance room that meets statewide specifications is attached to the lab, said Baker.

A games protection expert brought in from Las Vegas teaches a more advanced course that includes spotting the telltale signs of cheating, such as when cards are marked.

"Instinct plays a big part in a job like this because you can't teach people certain things," said Lt. Elvin Seals, who spent nearly a decade working as an agent at the state's casinos. "You've got to feel it giving on."

One of the "tells" of someone cheating at a slot machine is rubbernecking, said Baker. The gambler is not paying attention to the machine, but rather looking around to see if anyone is watching.

The class "gives students the oppor-

tunity to actually see in a controlled environment what they are going to see in the work environment," Baker said. "This is a very serious business because everywhere there is money. They are taught to be aware of what's going on in a casino all the time."

Advanced and basic training courses have been scheduled for this year, but the school will also be focusing on the individual games, he told LEN. Officers will be taught how to play them, and what can occur during a game. As a regulatory agency, he said, the Gaming Commission ensures that games are played in the proper way. If a dealer is found not to be dealing correctly, the gaming commission requires the casino to fix that problem. "We train the dealer because it's all part of games protection," said Baker. "We use the lab to do that."

The Missouri lab is unique, said Baker. In Nevada, he noted, agencies will use North Las Vegas Community College's gaming lab which is used to train college students who want to work in the casinos as dealers. "We're the only [agency] we know that actually has its own [lab] and a training director assigned to it full-time," he said.

Forum: Waking up to the end of the crime-decline honeymoon

Continued from Page 13

The peaking of the crack cocaine epidemic around 1985, the prosperity of the 1990s, the reduction of unemployment and the demographic impact of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973 on the euphemistically labeled "at-risk male population" all contributed to the decline. But there may well be hidden factors — such as attitudinal shifts among the underclass — that may not become clear for years. Whatever the case, the police, at the height of their aggressiveness, were powerless to stem the rising tide of criminality in the '80s. This is a cautionary tale for contemporary savants.

Are the police helpless or irrelevant? Emphatically not. They do beautiful, heroic and important things. Cops have critically important roles to play in combating street crime, responding to emergencies and controlling traffic. Their performance ought to be evaluated in an annual report, prepared by the chief, describing progress, or lack of it, toward the objectives set out here and whatever additional ones are thought useful.

Regaining control of the department will have to be a top priority. For this,

the chief will need to use spies who report on serious wrongdoing to monitors in the internal affairs division. IAD needs to be central to the career aspirations of rising young stars. The point is to clearly establish acceptable forms of behavior on the street, and the best way to do this is through the fear of a tough internal affairs inquiry.

Clients of 9-1-1 would be polled, randomly, as to the quality of the police service they received. Citizen complaints need to be treated as seriously as the corporate world does with its customers. The integrity of the force needs to be tested through carefully monitored simulations, such as were employed in the 1970s, under the rubric of "self-initiated integrity tests."

Minority recruitment must focus on black males, and police trainee programs ought to be revisited with this objective in mind. Women are a success story. America's police now need to emulate the military in showing young black men a way out. Black leaders need to pitch in on this. Athletics are not the answer.

Disabled officers should be offered the dignity of work, through desk or staff assignments, and there needs to be tough monitoring of sick-time abuses.

The universal call for more cops is little more than an elegant admission of failure to properly manage the agency.

The union must be a partner in reform. Unionism has done a very great deal for cops (me included), but now the unions need to step forward and embrace tough changes.

We need to build on such innova-

tions as have been adopted, such as holding commanders responsible for conditions in their areas. Street crime can be measured, as can arrests and convictions, and approaches evaluated. Real emergencies should be answered within six minutes. The quality of the response system can be quantified.

Traffic enforcement needs to be pegged to accident prevention and the safe, speedy flow of vehicles. Enforcement of DWI and moving violations that endanger everyone can probably be quadrupled without much strain. This is productivity — focused on attacking real problems — not the mindless imposition of quotas.

All of this can be dismissed as bean-counting, but we need to develop a taste for that maligned vegetable. Let's face it: this is a tough and maybe politically untenable menu, but we set out to describe what reforms might look like, and this may be a good place to start the debate.

My own model was New York's police commissioner from October 1970 to May 1973, Patrick V. Murphy, who could be simply labeled a reformer. There has been precious little reform in the intervening decades, yet every single agency has serious problems needing action. Any new chief can identify and prioritize the six to 10 issues urgently needing his or her attention. Walking around and asking questions will soon have the thorniest issues bubbling forth, often in order of their importance.

To paraphrase Dickens, these are the best of times and the worst; it is the winter of despair and the spring of hope.

States gear up to use licenses as anti-terror tools

Continued from Page 1

ment is created, whoever is heading it up will realize it's something we need to move on pretty quickly."

In Kansas, legislation that would have given driver's licenses to undocumented aliens failed this year after one bill, which would have required licenses to have a distinctive biometric identifier, was combined with another proposal to add a thumbprint and a second identifying mark, such as a digital photo, said state Representative Nile Dillmore.

"I think that really complicated the matter," he told LEN, "made it more difficult to debate the merits of either one of those bills, because now we had folks who were not going to vote to have grandmothers' thumbprints on their driver's licenses at the same time that we were going to have distinctive licenses for undocumented aliens."

Moreover, some legislators were adamantly opposed to licensing illegal aliens.

"To me it's a public safety issue," said Dillmore. "These folks are here, and it's not the state's responsibility to enforce immigration law."

Julie Stebbins, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Motor Vehicles, said that in May, emergency legislation went into effect that ties Immigration and Naturalization documents with the expiration on driver's licenses or a state ID card. Those who are not U.S. citizens are issued a non-renewable, non-transferable license that may

not be used to obtain a license in another state, she told LEN.

"Ohio has it set up so that every four years we renew our licenses, so if you are here for six years, and you need to get a license after your four years is up, you have to come in and start the process all over again," said Stebbins. "Then your license will only be good for two years."

Since lawmakers passed the measure, some 22,229 non-renewable licenses have been issued. "We're averaging about 2,000 a week," she said.

Other states that have changed their licensing provisions include Kentucky, which requires non-citizens to go to one of 12 Transportation Cabinet offices statewide to renew or obtain licenses; New Jersey, where a bill was passed to convert licenses to ones with digitized photographs and signatures to make them harder to forge; and Florida and Louisiana, which both enacted laws that make driver's licenses expire with the expiration of visas. The same is true of Connecticut, which obtained that result through a rule change.

"At the end of the day, I do believe that states should retain the authority in administering their own driver's license process because they are the experts in motor vehicle administration, but improvements in our system may require state/federal partnership," said King, "or they may require some kind of a compact or agreement among states that they are all doing the same thing. I believe states should lead these efforts."

Headlines are not enough

Affirmative-action programs looking a little black & blue
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(7802)

A publication of John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

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Pathbreaking & myth-shattering:

Policing's impact on domestic violence (& vice versa)

Handbook of Intervention Strategies with Domestic Violence: Policies, Programs and Legal Remedies.

Albert R. Roberts, Editor.

New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 2002.

554 Pages (hbk); \$50.00

By Vincent E. Henry

For many years it seemed that domestic violence was rampant, out-of-control, and reaching epidemic proportions. Over the past several years, however, domestic violence offenses, like other violent crimes, have gradually decreased nationwide, and Dr. Albert Roberts, a professor of criminal justice at Rutgers University in Piscataway, N.J., is convinced that this reduction is the result of implementing better, more effective and more responsive law enforcement strategies. Especially in the past decade, law enforcement and other elements of the criminal justice enterprise have made tremendous progress in terms of protecting battered women and reducing recidivism among batterers.

Roberts has edited an important new book, "The Handbook of Intervention Strategies with Domestic Violence: Policies, Programs and Legal Remedies," which examines the positive impact of an array of approaches that include mandatory arrest policies, electronic monitoring, and the effective use of restraining orders. This new book, which in many respects provides the blueprint for a proactive approach to preventing and eliminating domestic violence, can be seen as the antidote to complacency and a return to escalating domestic violence rates.

Roberts, who grew up in the Bronx and Manhattan during the mid-1940s to mid-1960s, when violent crime (including domestic violence) was escalating in all five boroughs of New York City, has a unique affinity for domestic violence victims and the realities they face. This sense of affinity resonates clearly in the seven chapters Roberts either wrote or co-authored, as well as in the remaining chapters he edited. Roberts also has a unique feel for the realities faced by law enforcement organizations and the criminal justice system as a whole, and this down-to-earth quality makes his book particularly appropriate for law enforcement professionals and other practitioners. As a former New Yorker, Roberts has also not

forgotten his roots: a quick check of the handbook's index reveals 44 entries for innovations and trends in domestic violence policies and programs in New York City, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties, and Upstate New York.

This up-to-date book is at once pathbreaking and practical, comprehensive and insightful, and it goes a long way toward shattering the 12 most common myths of domestic violence, replacing them with factual information. The information in each powerfully written chapter is also complemented by thought-provoking and stimulating case illustrations that help give this book its realistic tone. The book is also groundbreaking insofar as it will serve the needs of an especially broad audience of criminal justice practitioners. It provides timely and accurate information that will be useful to police officers, investigators and executives dealing with domestic violence incidents, to probation officers and supervisors dealing with offenders, and to prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges involved in adjudicating domestic violence cases. In the same vein, victim advocates, clinicians and members of multidisciplinary response teams will also find this thorough and encyclopedic volume useful in understanding victims and the dynamics of abusive relationships. This is the first book I have ever read that even attempts to reach so many diverse and specialized audiences with practical and timely information. It is remarkable not simply because it attempts to reach these audiences, but because in fact it succeeds. Every chapter contains practical guidelines and procedures for intervening on behalf of domestic violence victims.

I wholeheartedly agree with the book jacket blurb from Professor Charles Lindner of the Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, who notes: "This is the text for which I have been searching.... If you are going to purchase one book on domestic violence this year, this should be the one. I expect it to become a classic."

Everything you always wanted to know about wiseguys, but were afraid to ask

The Complete Idiot's Guide® to the Mafia.

By Jerry Capeci.

Indianapolis: Alpha Books, 2002.
343 pp., \$18.95.

By Ronald Goldstock

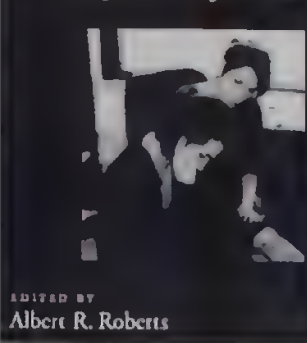
Army manuals have been described as written by geniuses so that they can be understood by morons. The Dummies Guides and the competitive Complete Idiot's Guides are brilliantly conceived learning texts based on the somewhat similar KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) principle of experts writing for novices in non-threatening language and in an engaging style. Originally designed for the non-geek computer users terrified of technical jargon, the guides now cover myriad subjects, many of which hardly need to be "dumbed down" for their potential audiences. Nonetheless, the style has become so popular that there is a demand for the format of "sidebars," "tips," "lessons," and cartoons (all having cute names associated with the particular subject), independent of the sophistication of the content.

"The Complete Idiot's Guide® to The Mafia" by Jerry Capeci, a journalist who has followed the mob and written extensively about it, is a wonderful example of the way in which the original design of such guides has evolved. Far from the readers' lack of familiarity and fear of computers that marked the origin of the Dummies series, the audience for a book on "The Mafia," is intimately aware of that part of American folklore. From "Little Caesar," through "The Godfather" to "The Sopranos," racketeers have been a staple of movies and TV. One could hardly have avoided media coverage of mob hits, trials and celebrities, even if one had wanted to do so — and almost nobody did. Capeci's job was not to make organized crime familiar, but to educate a reader who thought he knew something about the subject, by stripping away the mythology and substituting the truth. This he has done extremely well. Hence, the irony, — producing content that would serve admirably as a textbook, with a format designed to make the book seem less the serious and comprehensive work than it actually is.

And so the reader learns, for example, that the "La" in La Cosa Nostra exists only as a result of the FBI's misunderstanding of the term — no self-

Handbook of Intervention Strategies with Domestic Violence

Policies, Programs, and Legal Remedies



In its 23 chapters spread over 554 pages, the handbook covers a host of critical domestic violence issues and topics and provides a wealth of practical information. If you need a definitive source book on the effectiveness of mandatory arrest policies and protective orders, the effectiveness of different types of batterer counseling programs, or the types of intervention programs that effectively reduce trauma among children who witness domestic violence, read this book. If you have ever wondered what characteristics distinguish battered women who kill their partners from those who do not, read this book. If you have wondered what psychosocial and background factors often lead to an escalation of serious life-threatening injuries, or if you want to know more about the duration and severity of battering, read this book. If you have wondered how the domestic violence groups and programs that receive millions in federal grants spend these funds, or if you are a practitioner in need of the most comprehensive and current research in this field, read this book.

This is a powerful and appealing work, and a great deal of its power and appeal comes from its very candid, balanced, pull-no-punches style. Roberts and the team of 37 leading experts he as-

sembled to write the book have a unique way of telling it like it is: the text is clear, concise, and tightly-written, with none of the superfluous editorializing or overly academic ruminations that so often diminish the value of such works for practitioners. This is not to say that the book lacks the authority of academic research — on the contrary, the contributing authors have outstanding academic credentials and their conclusions are based in current research. Rather, it's that practitioners will find it exceptionally readable because it so seamlessly integrates theory and practice. The fine balance that the book strikes between the practical and theoretical is a credit to the editor and the authors.

Over the course of a 21-year police career, I was often frustrated by the tendency of many authors in the domestic violence field to indulge in theoretical excursions that seemed to have little to do with the immediate needs of the practitioner. Sometimes these fairly arcane excursions fell into the category of "nice to know," but they rarely engaged my interest or suited my need for hard information that was current, practical and immediately accessible. As a working cop, as a supervisor and as a policymaker, my focus was on finding justice for the victim and on the prevention of future violence. Because practitioners so often operate under compelling time constraints — we need to know what works, and we need to know it now — it seemed that I was always looking for a single reference source that would quickly give me the accurate information I needed.

The information contained in Roberts's handbook is certainly current and accurate, it is accessible, and it has a great deal of practical value. Moreover, the range of topics and issues covered make it easy to find the information you need without wading through pages of statistical data and theory. At the same time, as an academician who often writes about domestic violence issues, I've been frustrated by authors who give short shrift to research and do not adequately support their conclusions with objective factual data. Before I accept an author's conclusions as valid, I want to review the evidence he or she used to reach them. The fine balance achieved by Roberts and his team make this book the one I have been looking for.

Although I thought I knew a lot about domestic violence, I found that I learned a great deal more. Even after years of studying, writing about and dealing with domestic violence victims in a police context, I knew relatively little about model domestic violence courts or their specific strengths and weaknesses in relation to traditional criminal courts. I also learned how much more effective support groups and informal networks are than battered women's shelters in terms of permanently rescuing chronically battered women. I had never before encountered some of the victim typologies described in this book, but I now recognize that they have important implications for police, prosecutors and mental health professionals.

Roberts & Co. have produced a truly remarkable book that holds tremendous value for practitioners in virtually every sphere of the criminal justice enterprise. In particular, it should be purchased by police training officers, by chiefs and administrators who are concerned with developing more effective policies and programs, and by police libraries. If the goal is to save lives, to prevent domestic violence injuries, and to secure justice, the "Handbook of Intervention Strategies in Domestic Violence" is a must-read.

(Vincent E. Henry, Ph.D., recently retired after a 21-year career with the New York City Police Department, where he developed domestic violence policies and programs as commanding officer of the Office of Management Analysis and Planning's Special Projects Unit. He is now an associate professor of criminal justice at Pace University in Manhattan.)

(Ronald Goldstock, an adjunct assistant professor of law at New York University, was head of the New York State Organized Crime Task Force.)

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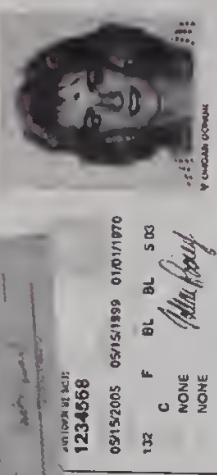
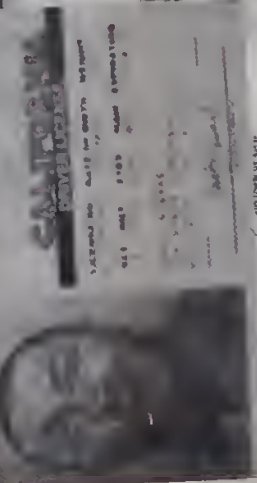
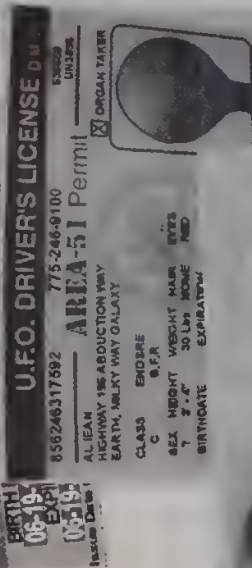
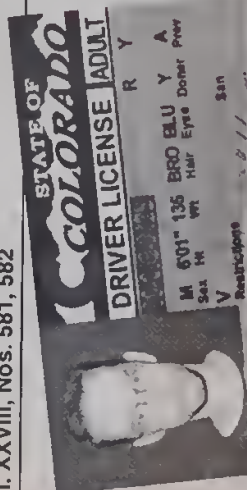
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July/August 2002

Alien-spotting:

In anti-terror move, states seek to link visas with driver's licenses.

On Page 1.



The view from the top:

LEN talks with IACP president Bill Berger, police chief of North Miami Beach, Fla. Interview, Pages 8-11.



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What They Are Saying:

"I have a funny feeling that as your rank goes up in the police field, you don't want to be in a classroom with people below you in rank."

— Dr. Dan LeClair, chairman of the criminal justice program at Boston University's Metropolitan College, on one of the attractions of the school's new Internet-based master's degree. (Story, Page 6.)